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# INVINCIBLE™



VOLUME NINETEEN  
**THE WAR AT HOME**







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# INVINCIBLE™

## THE WAR AT HOME



CREATED BY  
**ROBERT KIRKMAN  
& CORY WALKER**

**image**®









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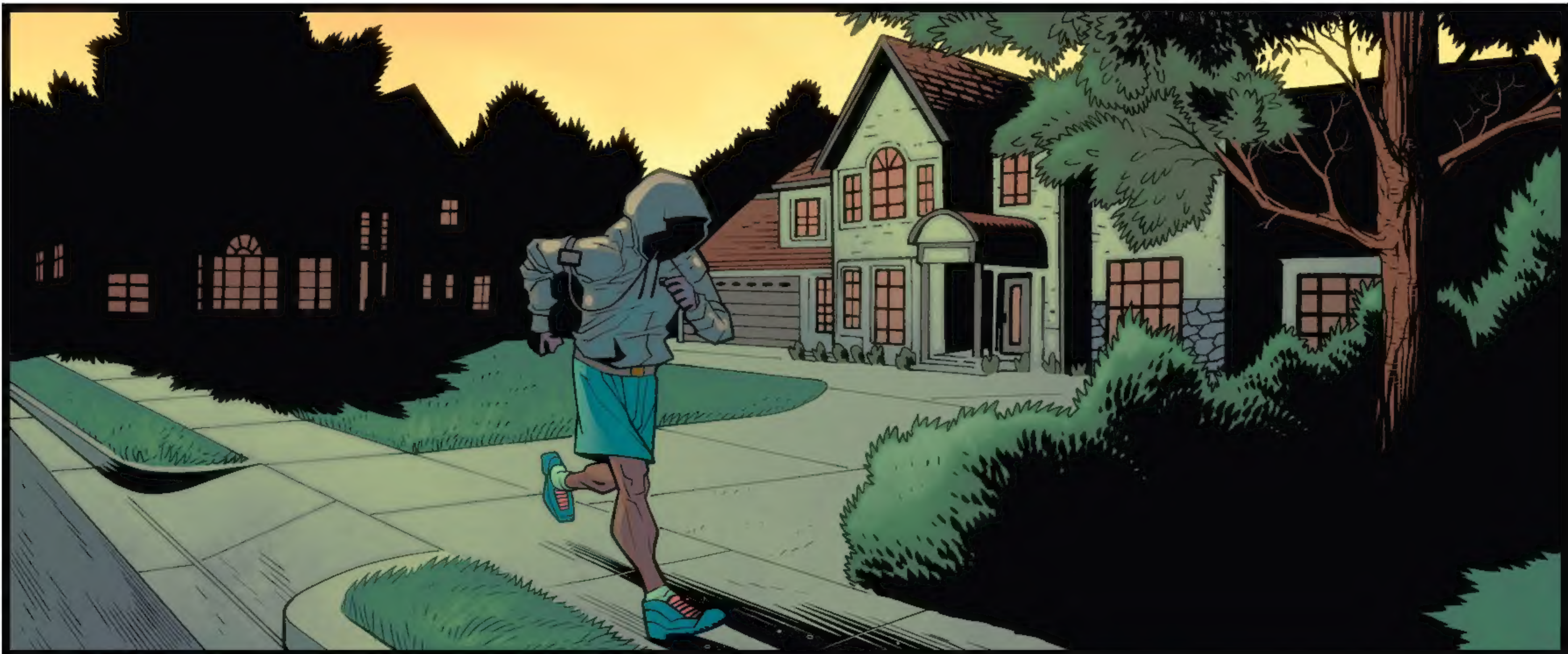




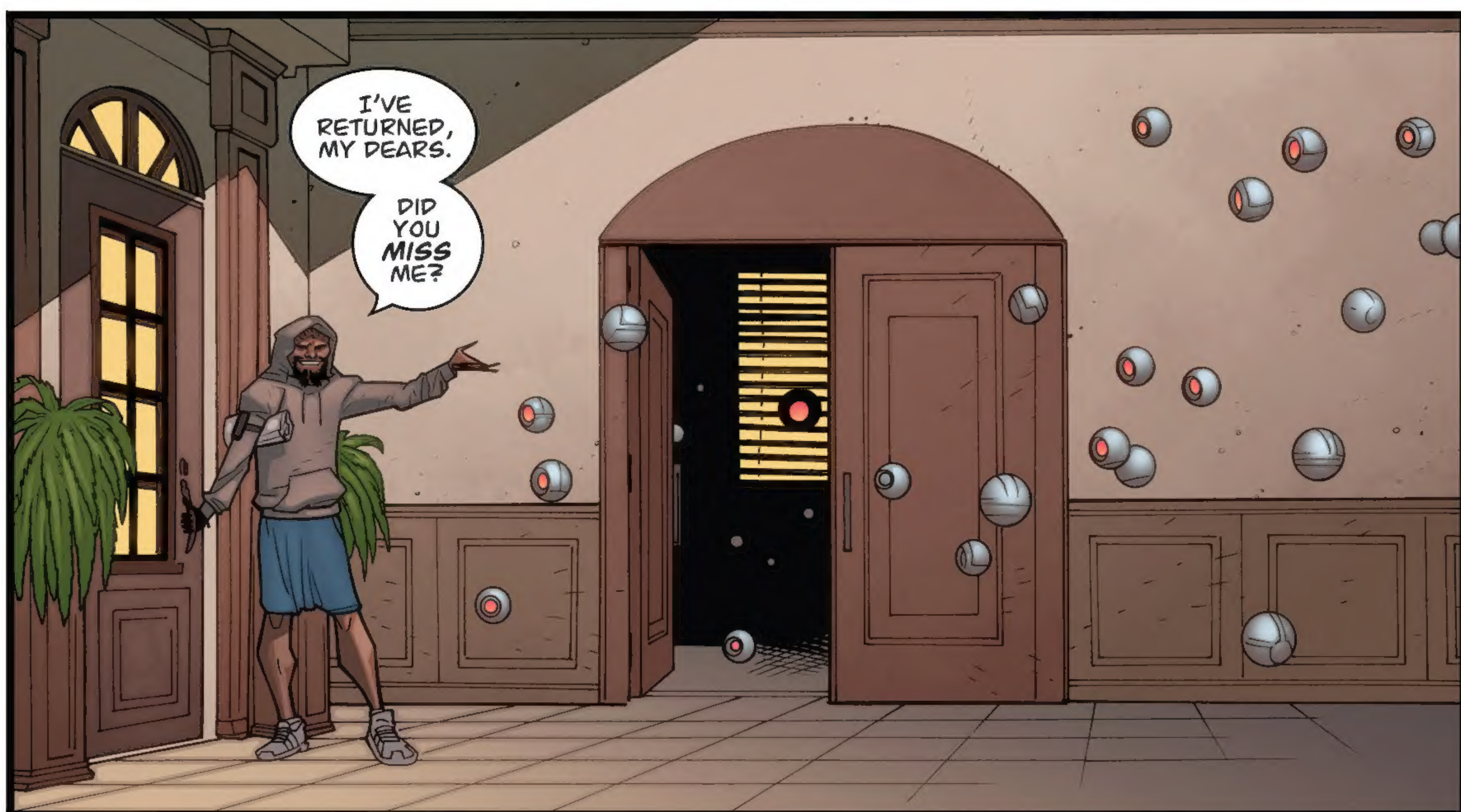
# CHAPTER ONE



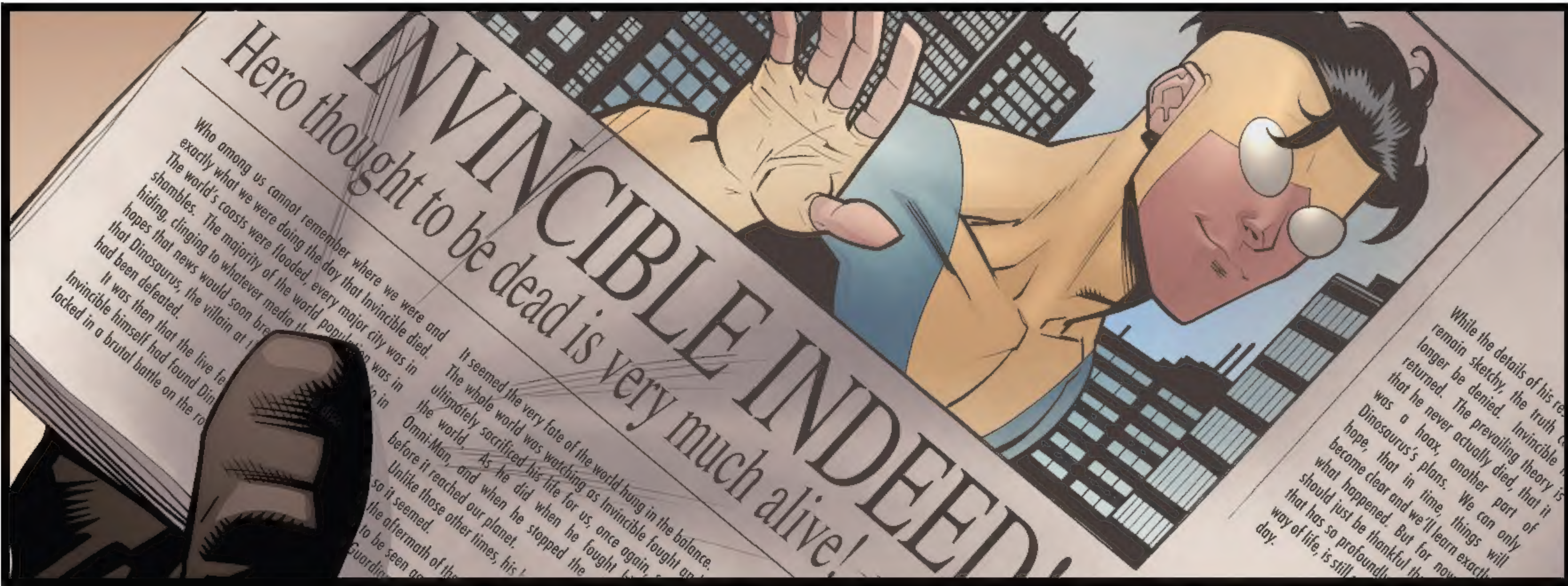




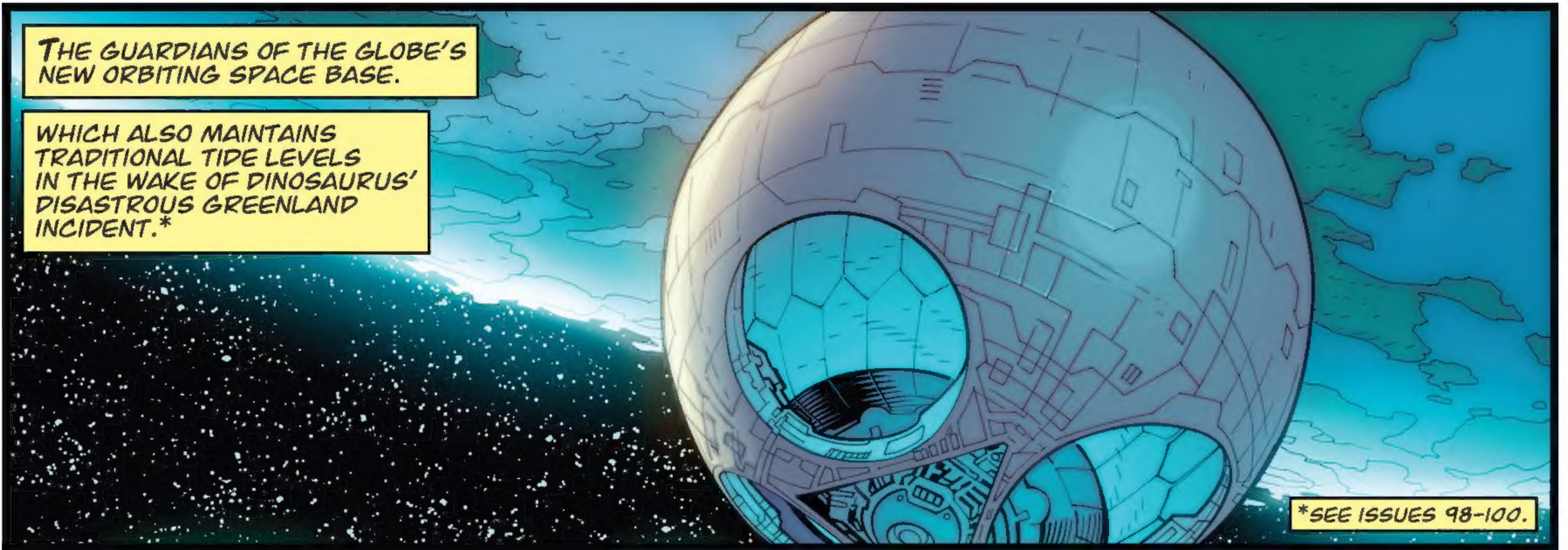








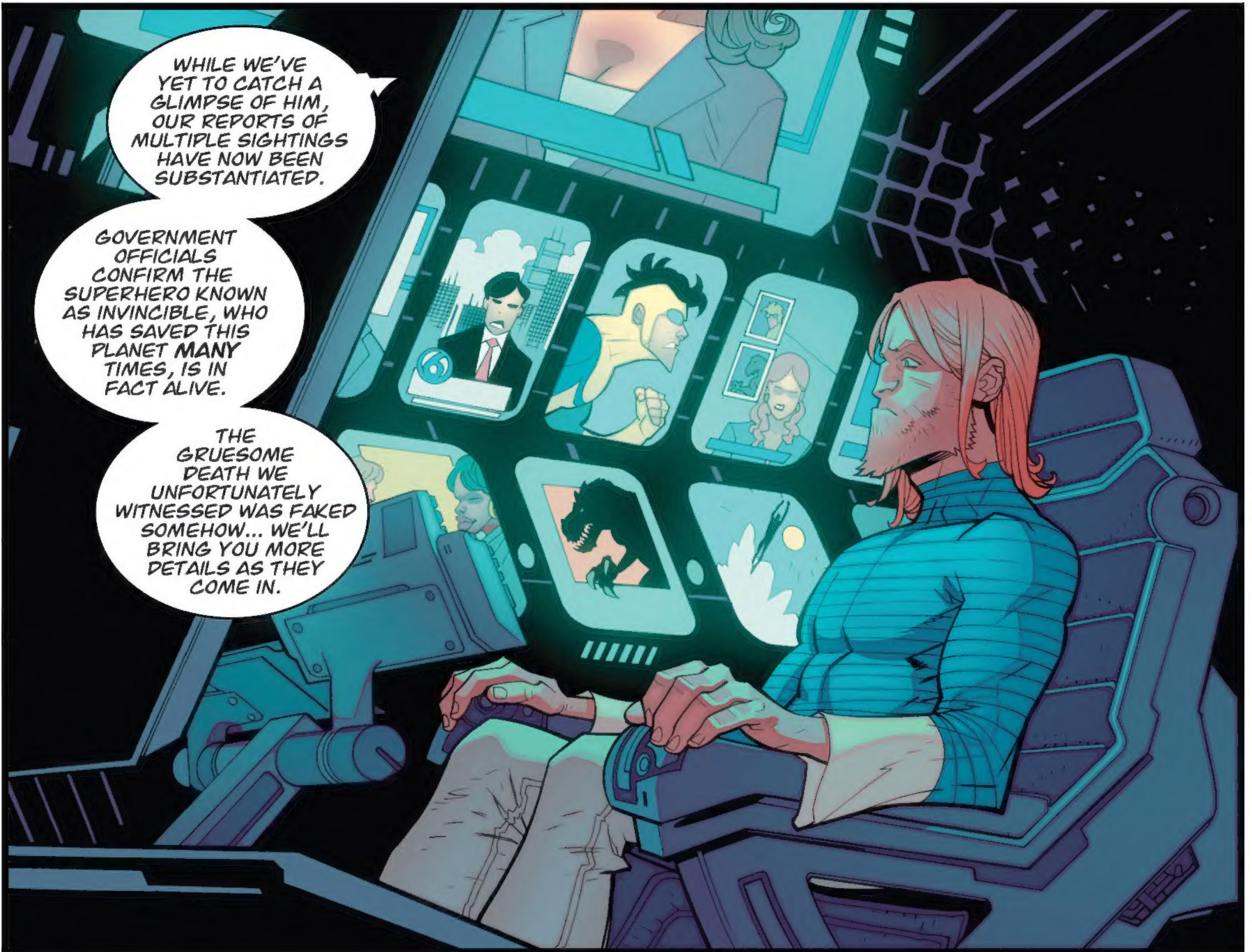




THE GUARDIANS OF THE GLOBE'S NEW ORBITING SPACE BASE.

WHICH ALSO MAINTAINS TRADITIONAL TIDE LEVELS IN THE WAKE OF DINOSAURUS' DISASTROUS GREENLAND INCIDENT.\*

\*SEE ISSUES 98-100.



WHILE WE'VE YET TO CATCH A GLIMPSE OF HIM, OUR REPORTS OF MULTIPLE SIGHTINGS HAVE NOW BEEN SUBSTANTIATED.

GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS CONFIRM THE SUPERHERO KNOWN AS INVINCIBLE, WHO HAS SAVED THIS PLANET MANY TIMES, IS IN FACT ALIVE.

THE GRUESOME DEATH WE UNFORTUNATELY WITNESSED WAS FAKED SOMEHOW... WE'LL BRING YOU MORE DETAILS AS THEY COME IN.



ALL WE KNOW FOR NOW IS THAT THE THREAT OF DINOSAURUS HAS BEEN ELIMINATED, AND WE HAVE INVINCIBLE TO THANK FOR THAT.

AS A PERSONAL NOTE FROM THIS REPORTER... SINCERELY, THANK YOU.





REX?  
EVERYTHING  
OKAY?



ARE YOU  
SERIOUS?

YEAH.  
YOU SEEM  
AGITATED.



HOW  
COULD YOU  
NOT BE?!

NOT ONLY  
HAS CECIL LET  
INVINCIBLE GET  
AWAY WITH THE  
DEATHS HE CAUSED  
BY RELEASING  
DINOSAURUS AND  
WORKING WITH HIM--  
HE'S ALSO GIVING  
HIM THE CREDIT  
FOR HIS  
DEFEAT!



I'M NOT  
HAPPY ABOUT  
IT EITHER...  
BUT...

WAIT--  
IS THIS ABOUT  
**CREDIT**? YOU  
WANT PEOPLE  
TO KNOW  
YOU SAVED  
THEM?

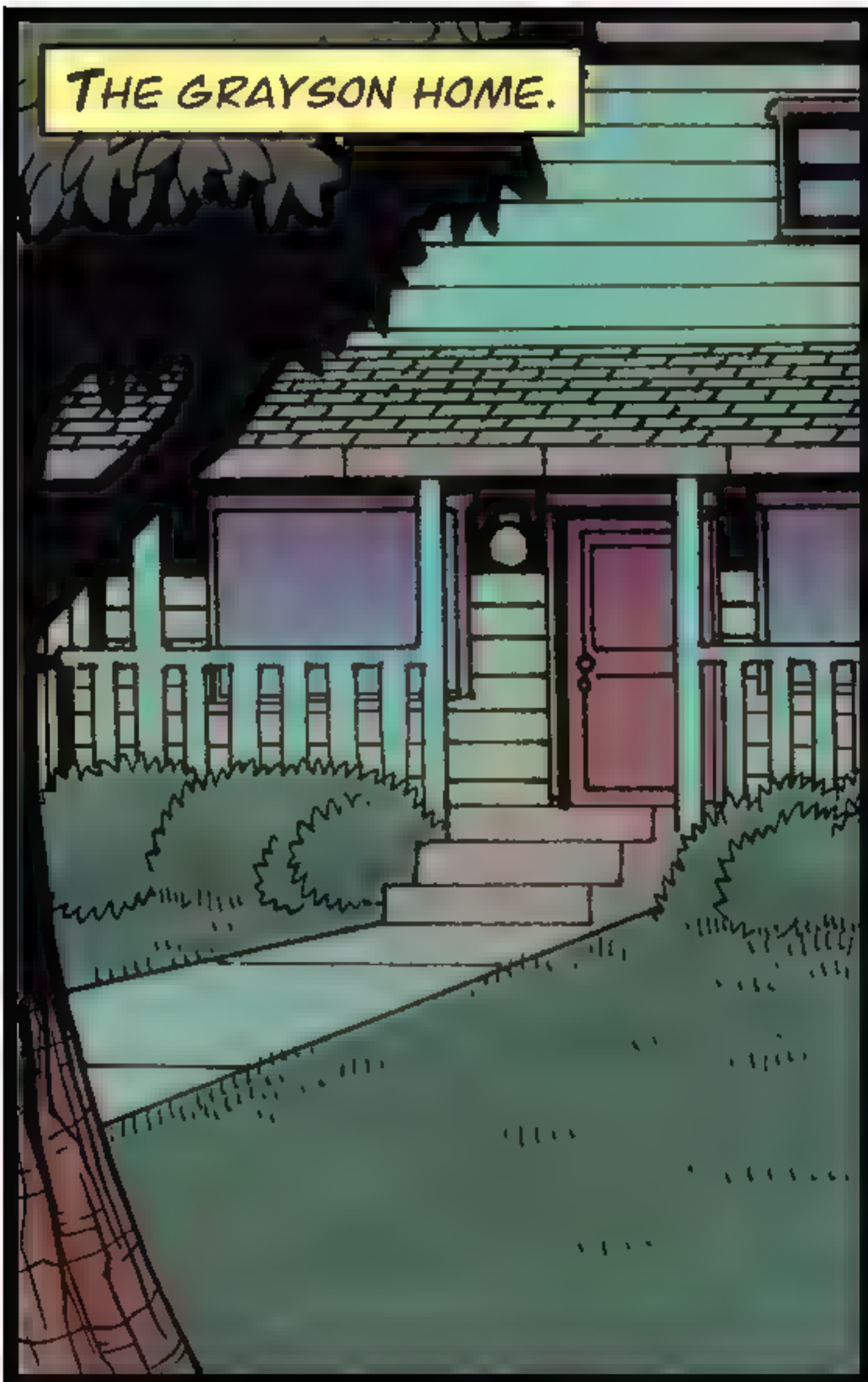


NO!

NO.

THAT'S NOT  
IT AT ALL!  
JUST... IT'S  
JUST... IT'S NOT  
RIGHT!





THE GRAYSON HOME.

NO, THIS HOUSE IS GREAT. WE CAN CONVERT MY OLD ROOM TO THE BABY'S ROOM AS SOON AS WE KNOW IF IT'S A BOY OR A GIRL.

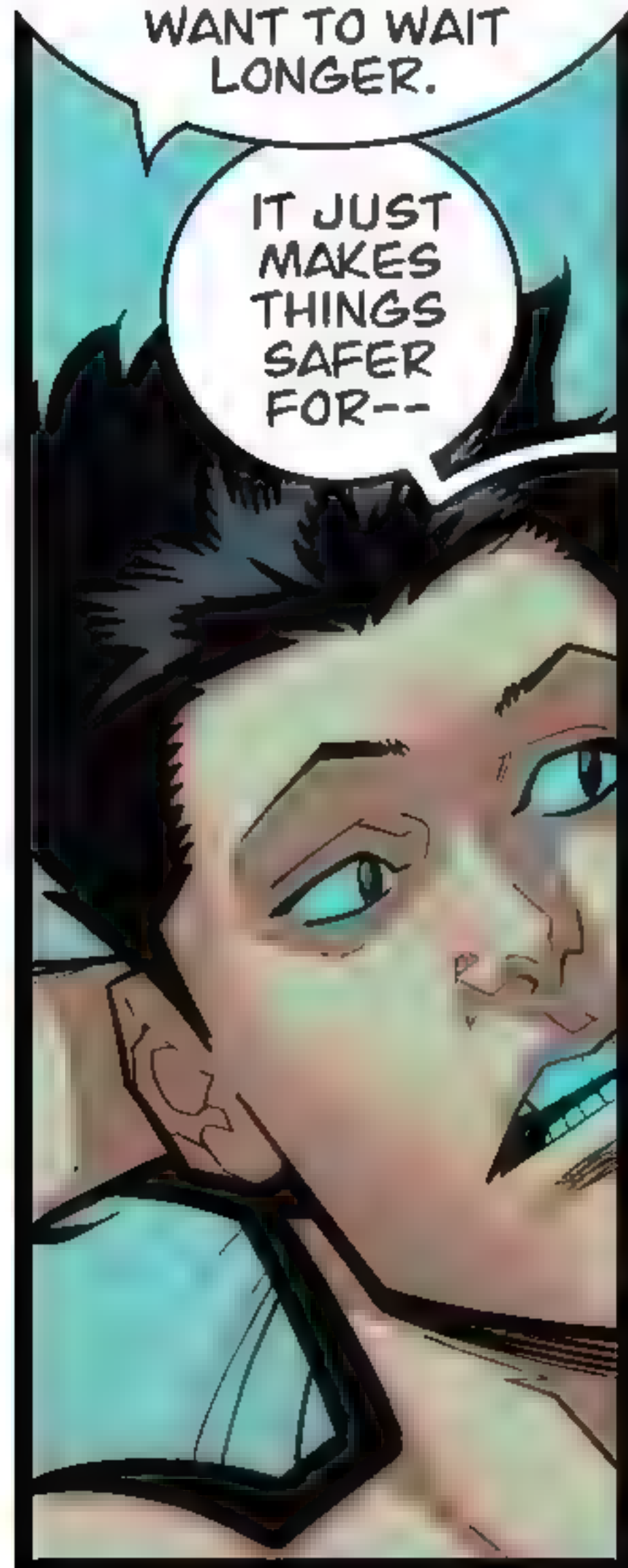


I'M SO GLAD YOU WANT TO KNOW WHAT IT IS BEFORE IT'S BORN. I'VE NEVER UNDERSTOOD PEOPLE WHO WANT IT TO BE A SURPRISE.

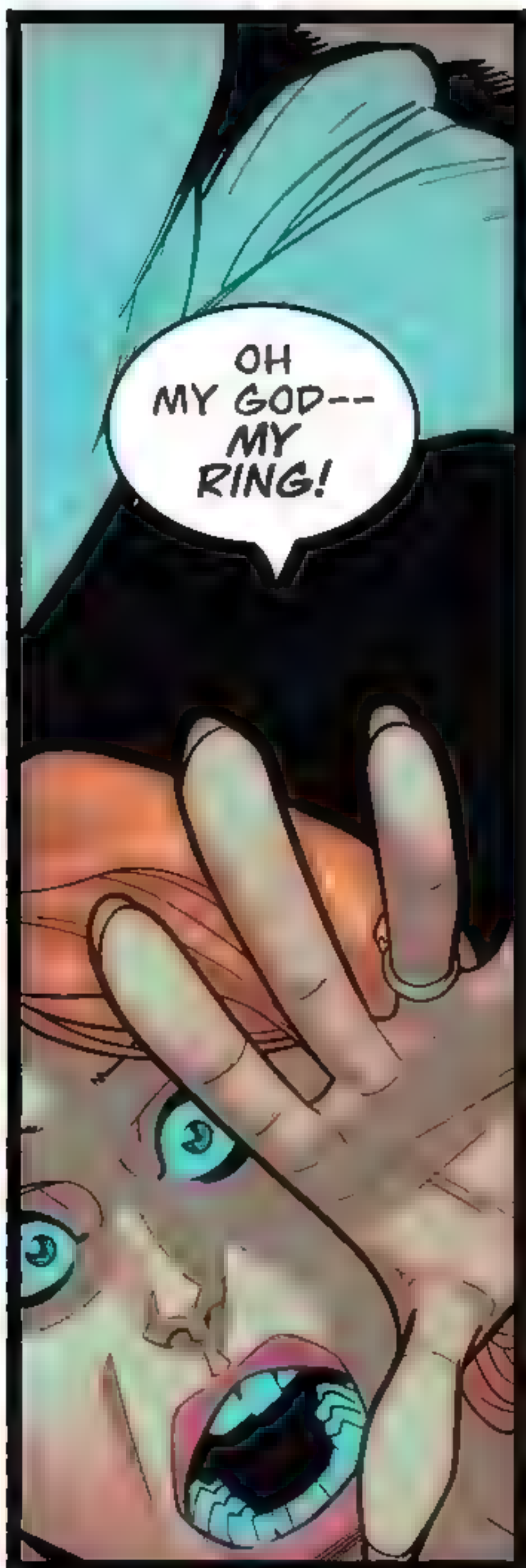
WHEN DO YOU WANT TO TELL YOUR PARENTS?

ABOUT THE ENGAGEMENT... NOT THE BABY... I STILL WANT TO WAIT A WHILE ON THAT.

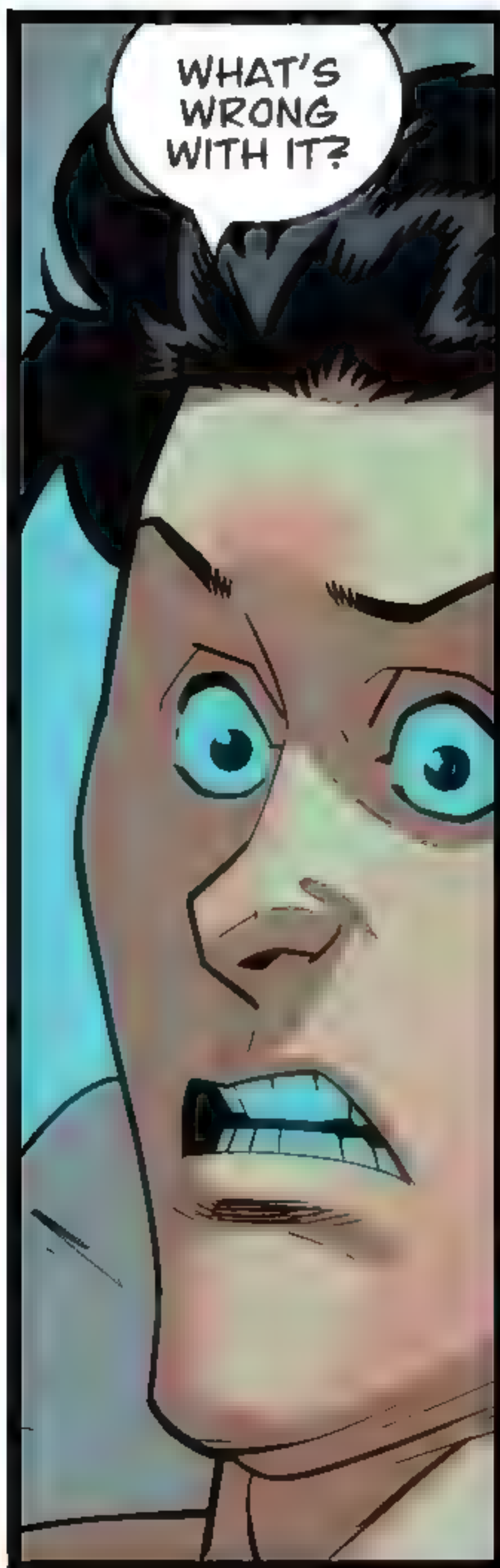
MY DAD'S NOT GOING TO INDUCT IT INTO THE VILTRUM EMPIRE AT BIRTH... I DON'T GET WHY KNOWING HE TOOK OVER AS EMPEROR IS MAKING YOU WANT TO WAIT LONGER.



IT JUST MAKES THINGS SAFER FOR--



OH MY GOD-- MY RING!

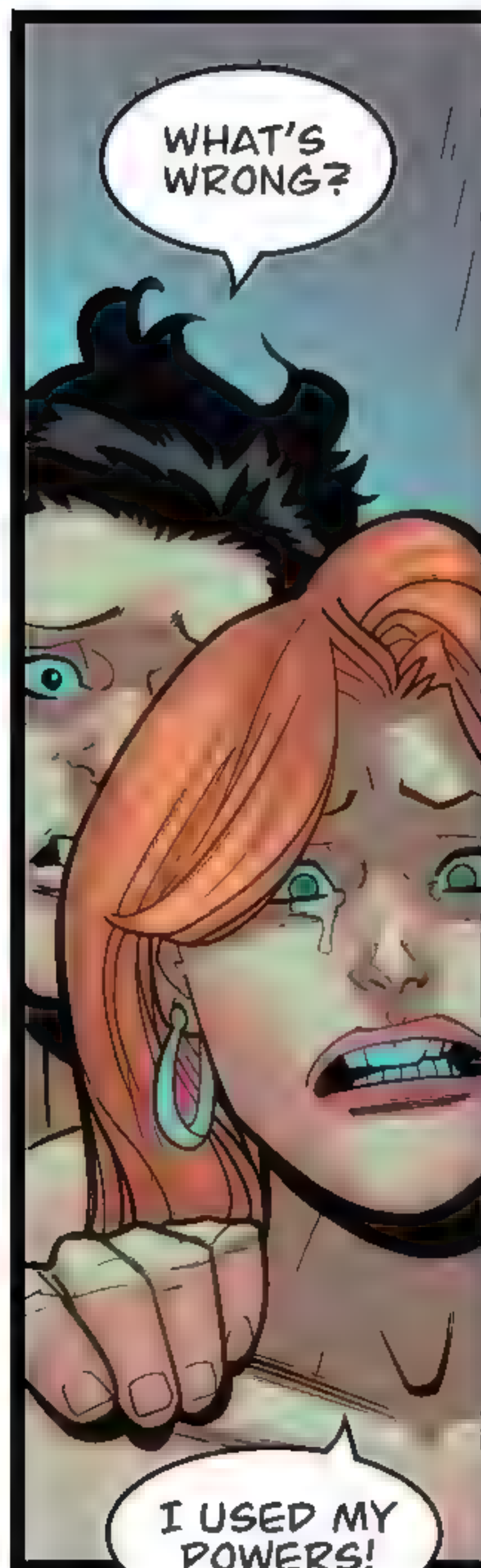


WHAT'S WRONG WITH IT?



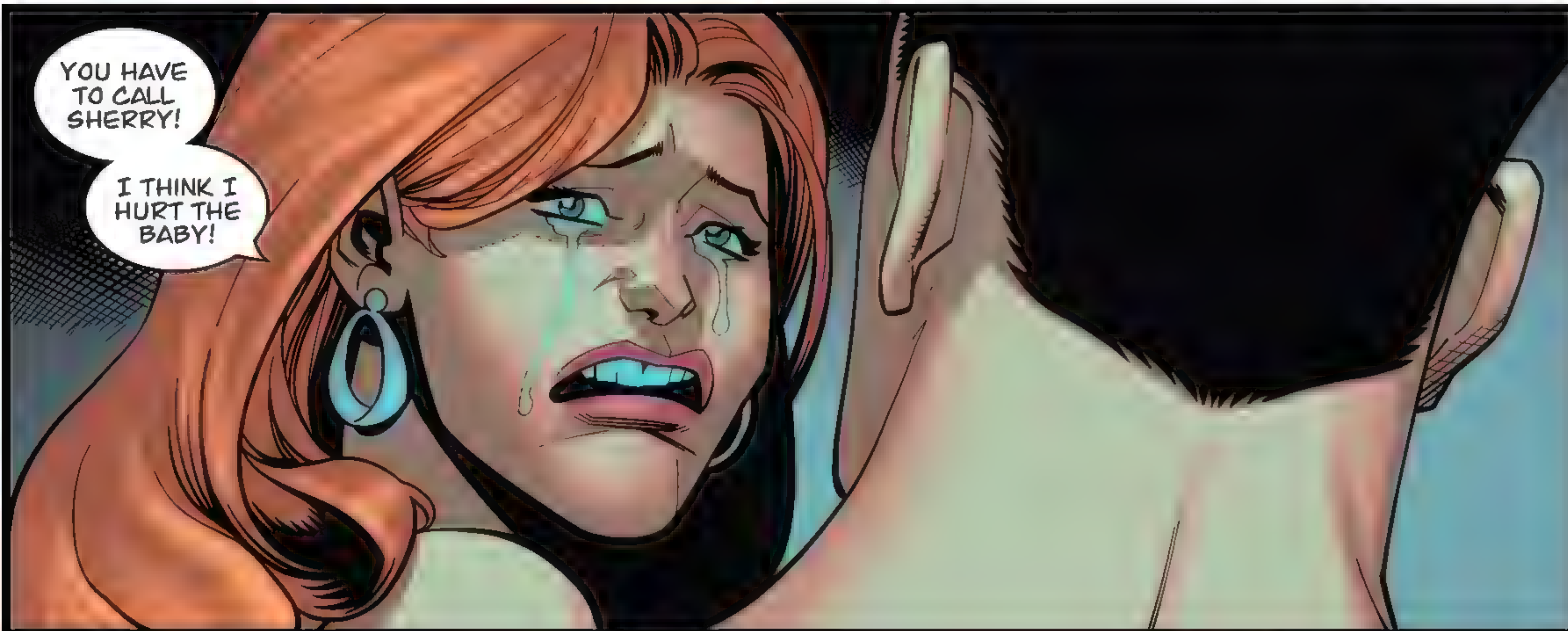
OH, GOD-- I CAN'T BREATHE.

OH, GOD!



WHAT'S WRONG?

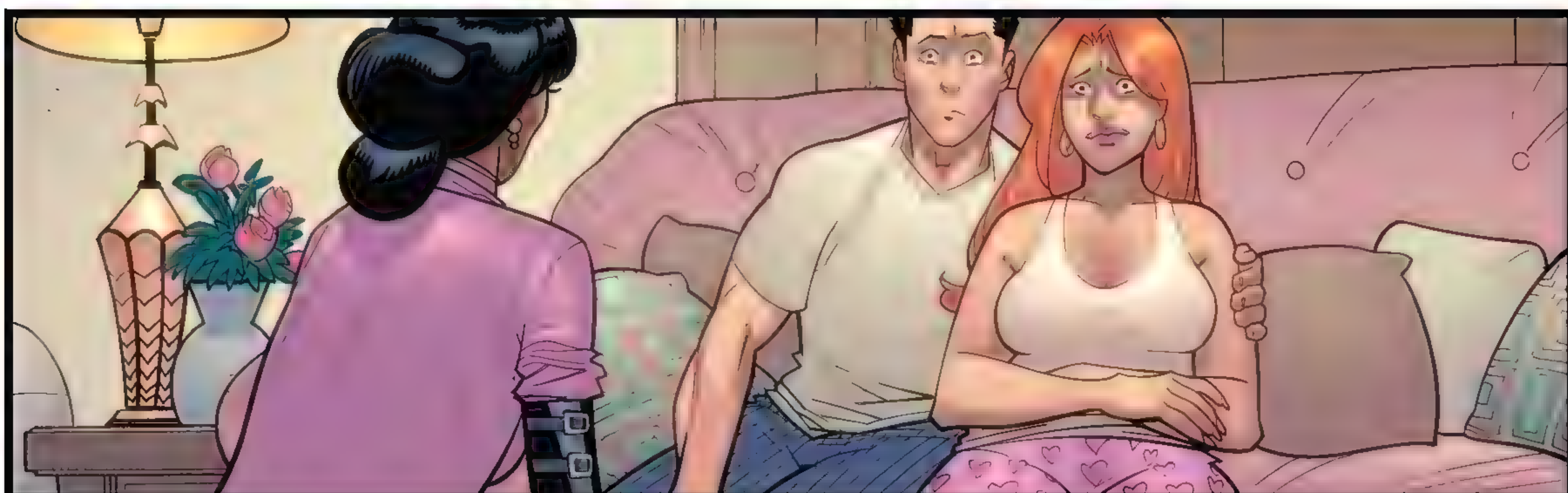
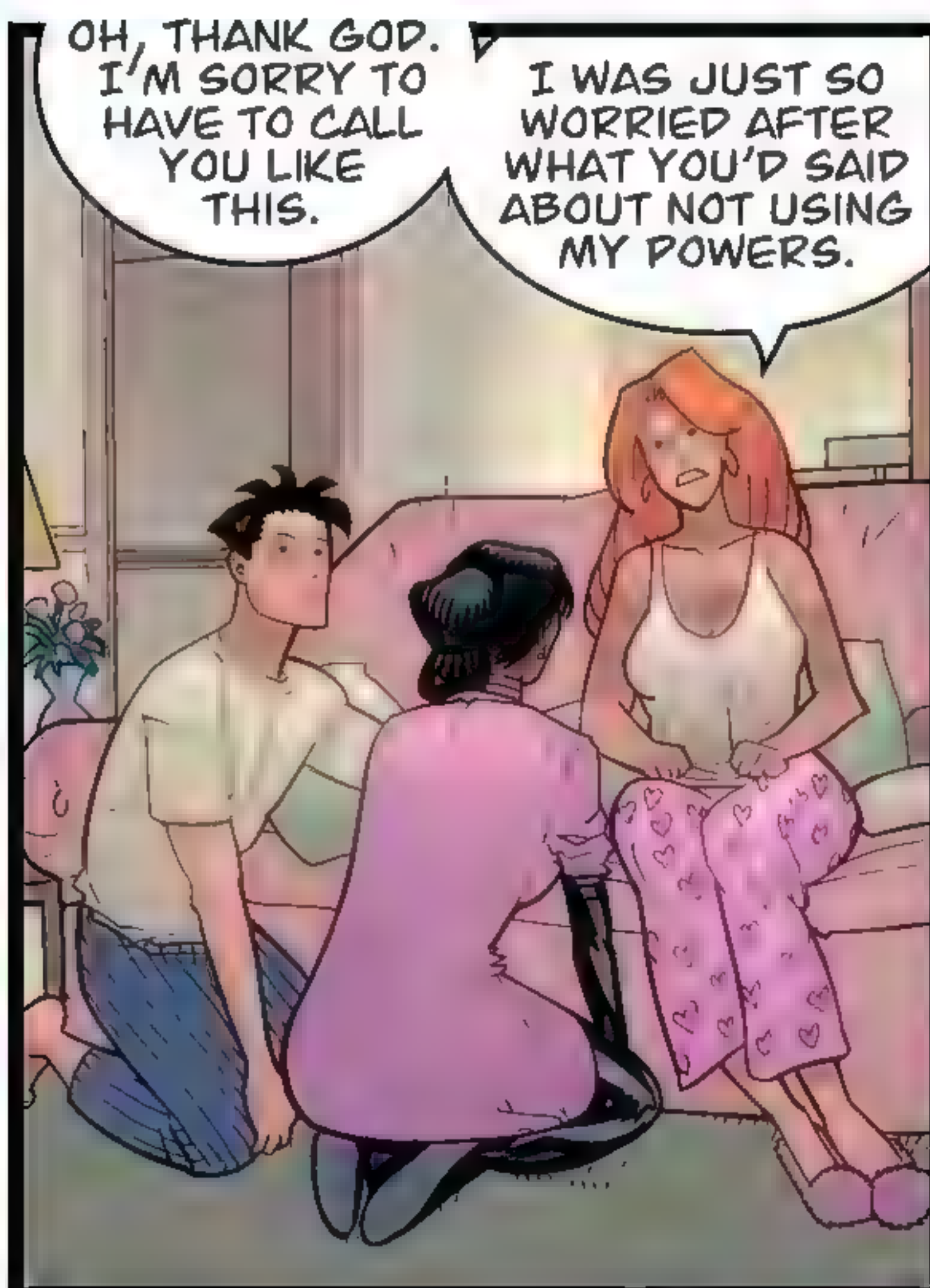
I USED MY POWERS!



YOU HAVE TO CALL SHERRY!

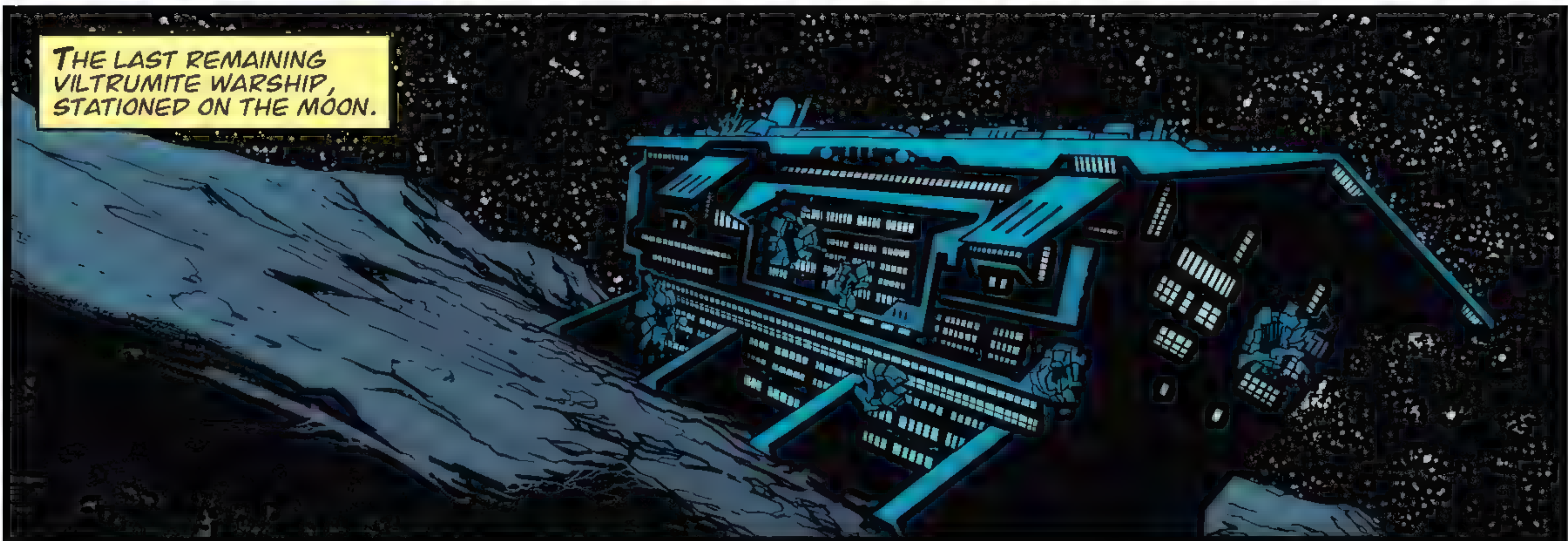
I THINK I HURT THE BABY!







THE LAST REMAINING  
VILTRUMITE WARSHIP,  
STATIONED ON THE MOON.



YOU  
DISGUST  
ME.

THEY'LL  
NEVER  
FOLLOW  
YOU.







THEY  
ALREADY  
ARE.

THEY  
WERE GOING  
TO KILL YOU.  
I COMMANDED  
THEM TO SPARE  
YOU... AND  
THEY DID.

CALL ME  
CRAZY, BUT  
I FEEL LIKE A  
THANK YOU  
MAY BE IN  
ORDER.



LET ME  
OFFER  
YOU SOME  
ADVICE  
AS A  
THANK YOU,  
NOLAN.

KILL ME  
NOW.



KEEP ME  
RESTRAINED IF YOU  
FEAR YOU STILL  
COULDN'T BEST ME IN A  
FIGHT... DESPITE MY  
INJURED STATE... BUT  
KILL ME. AND DO IT  
SOON.

IF YOU  
LEAVE ME  
ALIVE... THEY WILL  
GROW TO SEE YOU  
AS WEAK AND THE  
VILTRUMITES WILL  
NEVER FOLLOW  
WEAKNESS.



THEY'LL  
ABANDON YOU,  
OR THEY'LL  
ASSASSINATE  
YOU.

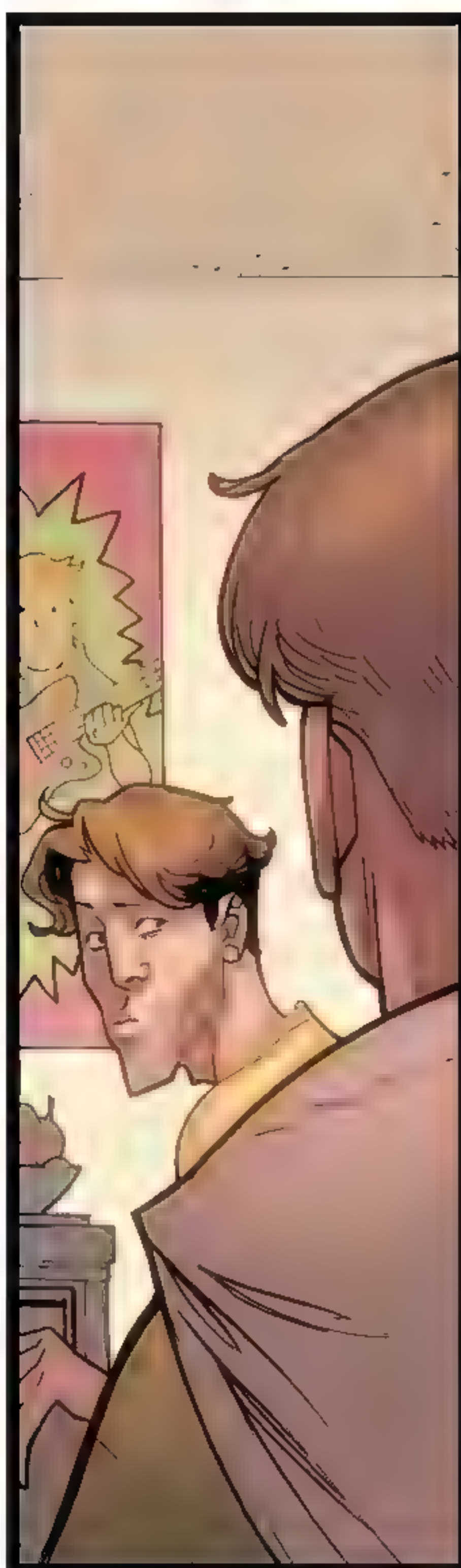
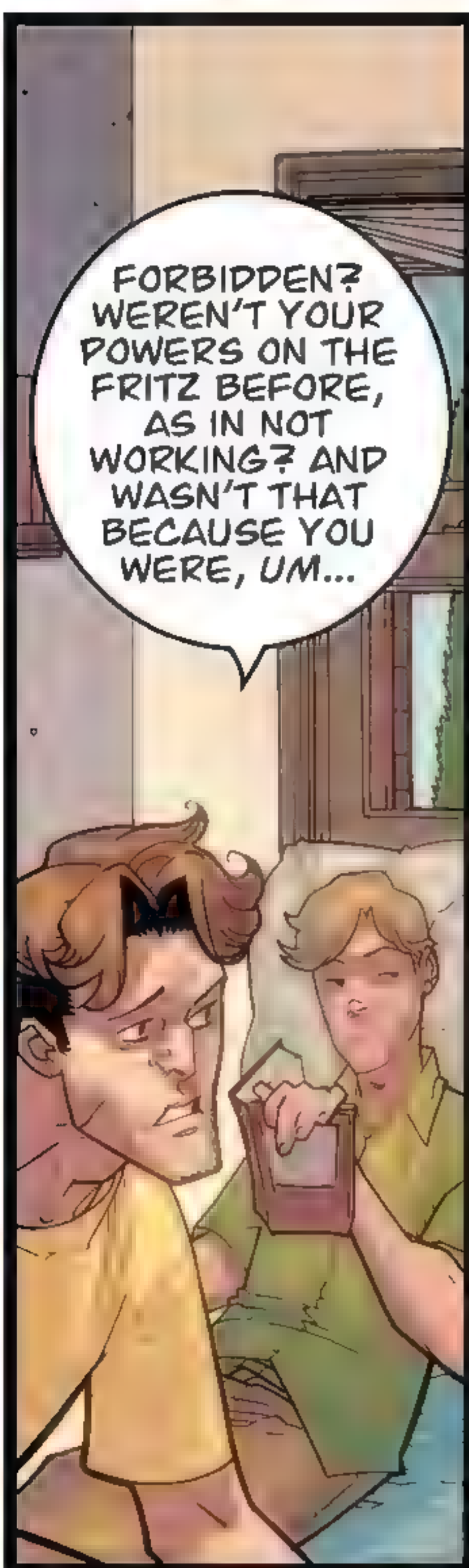
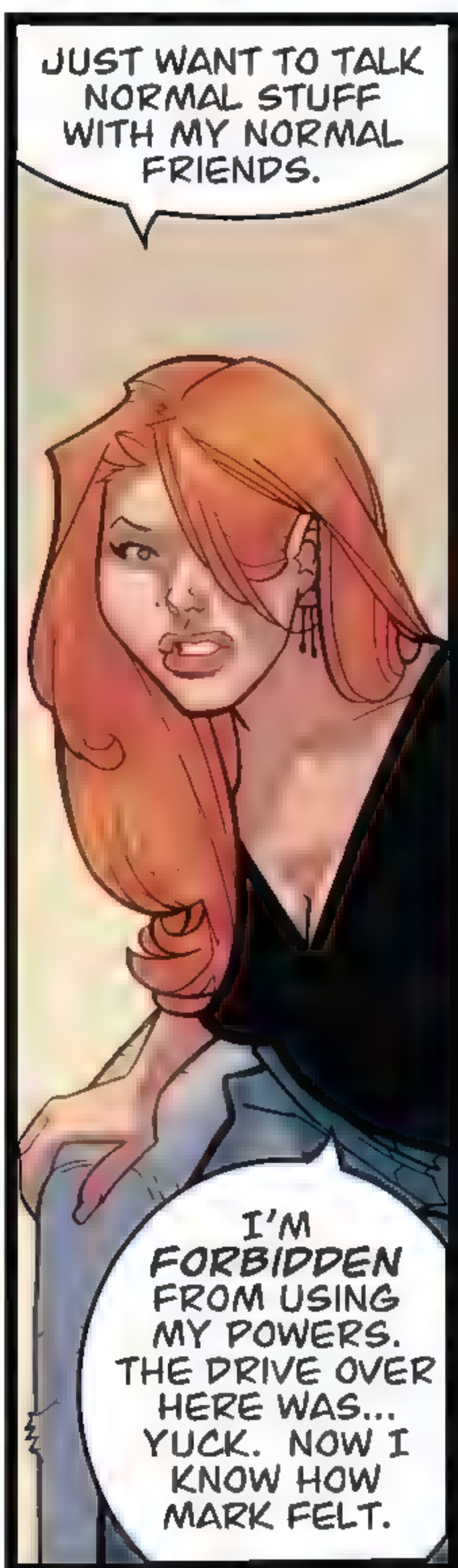
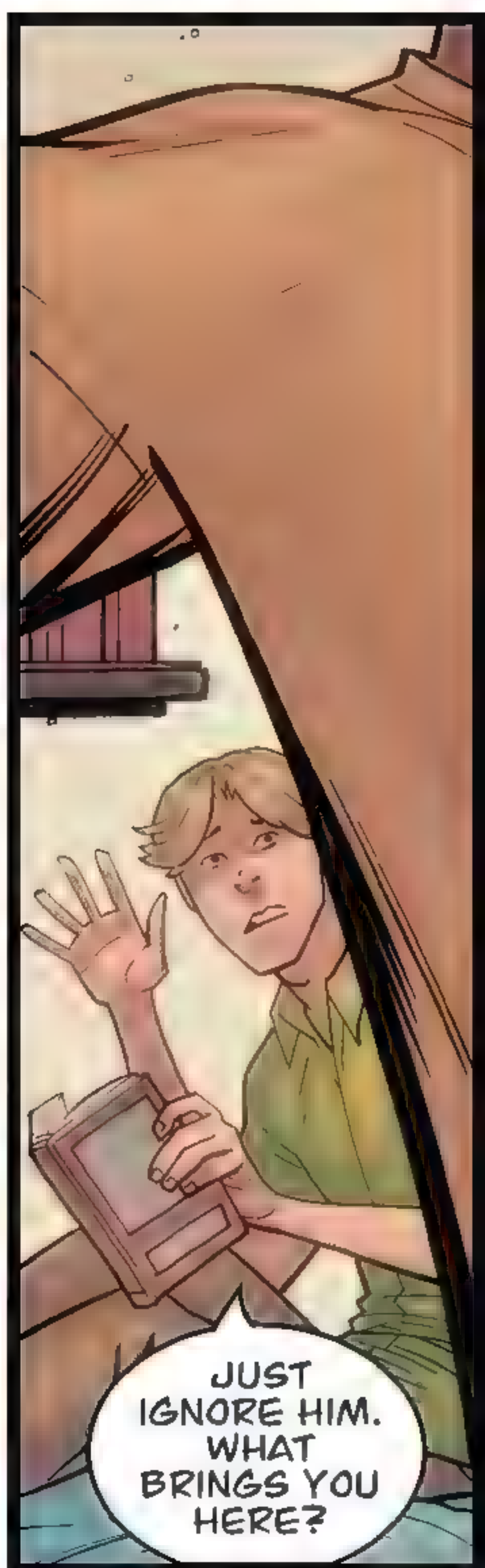
BUT  
THEY'LL COME  
CRAWLING BACK  
TO ME. YOU'LL  
SEE. IT MIGHT TAKE  
A CENTURY... BUT  
THEY WILL TURN  
ON YOU.



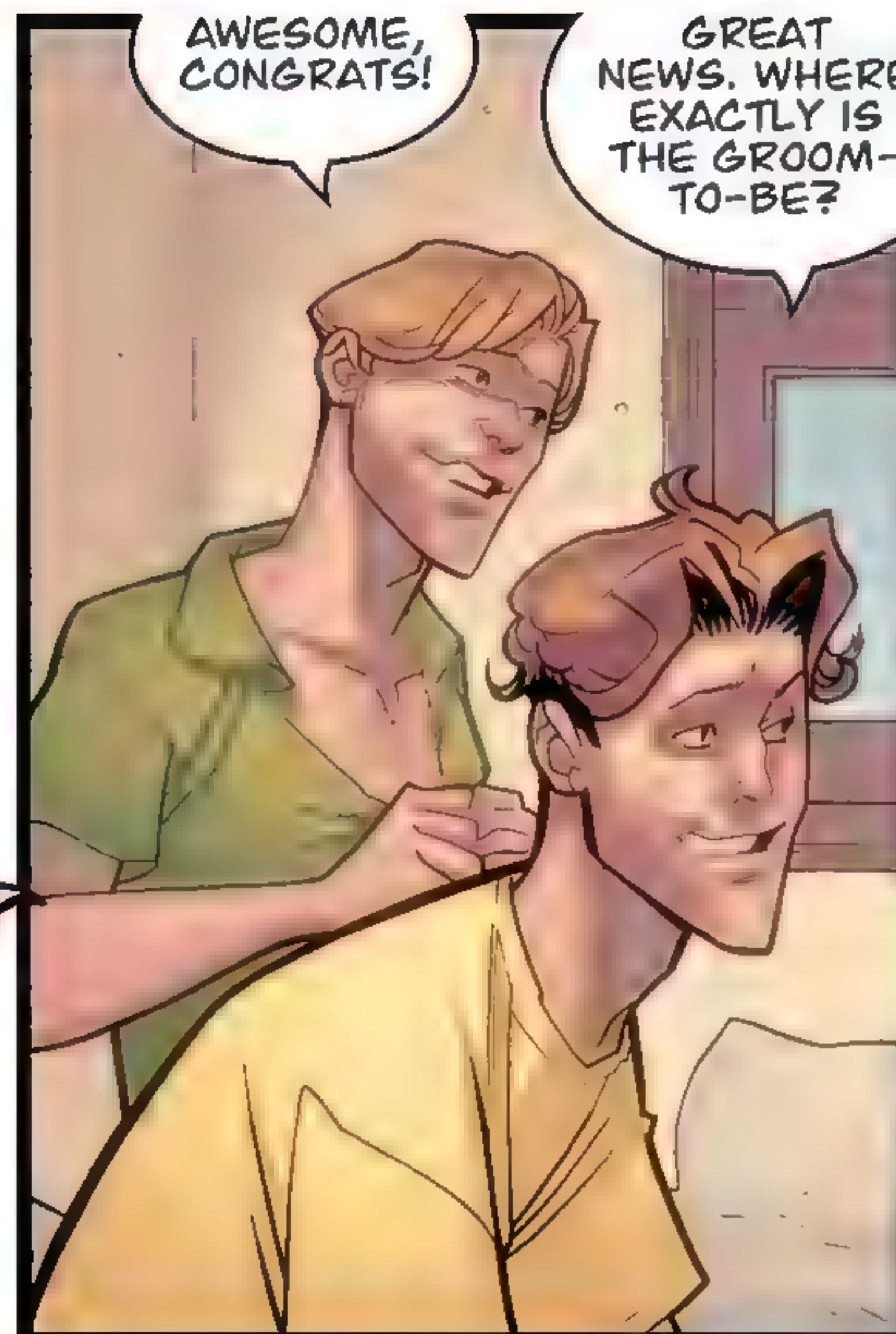
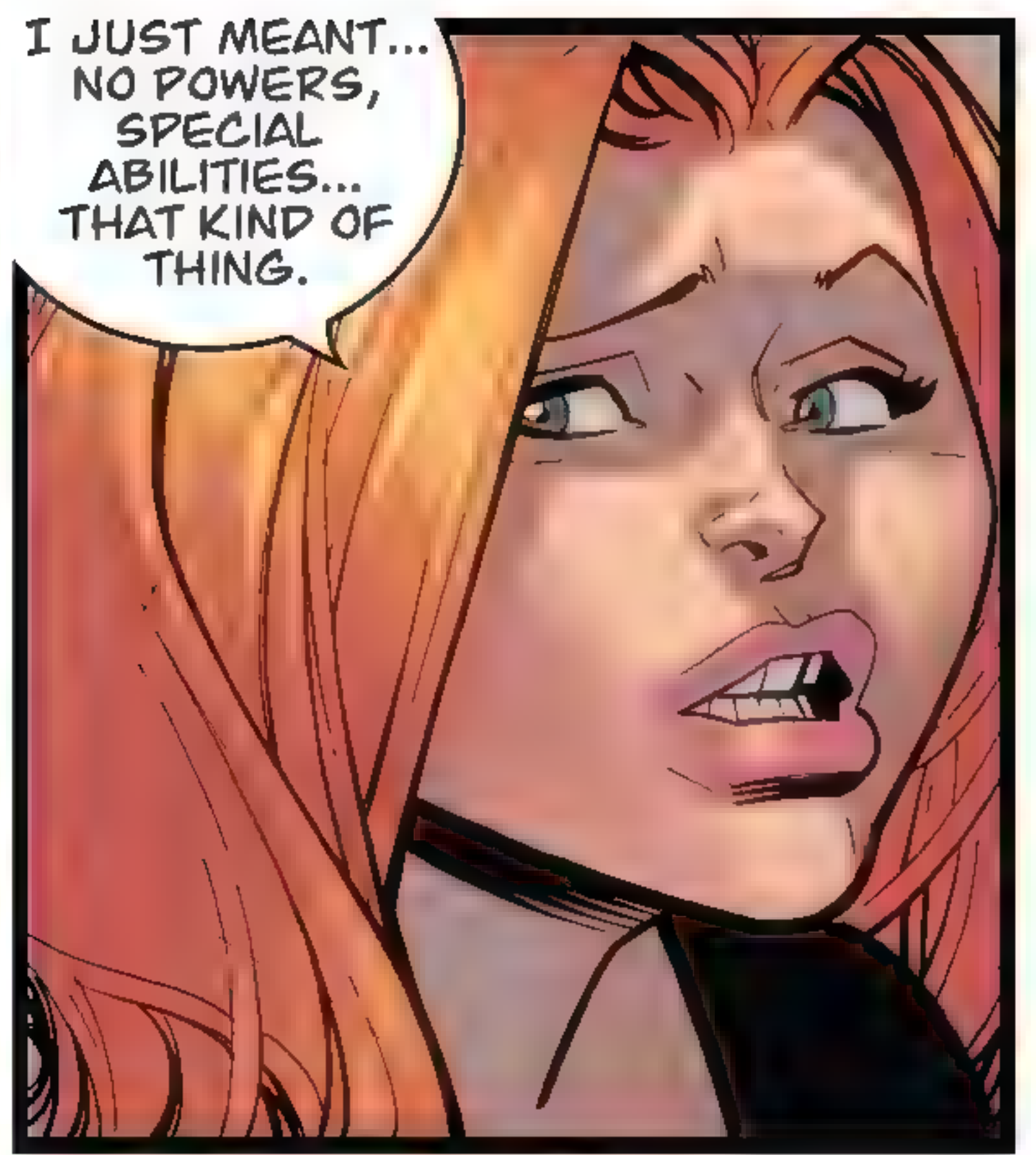
NO.  
THOSE  
ARE  
THE OLD  
WAYS.

I'M  
CHANGING  
THINGS...  
AND YOUR  
PUNISHMENT  
IS THAT YOU  
HAVE TO LIVE  
TO SEE IT.











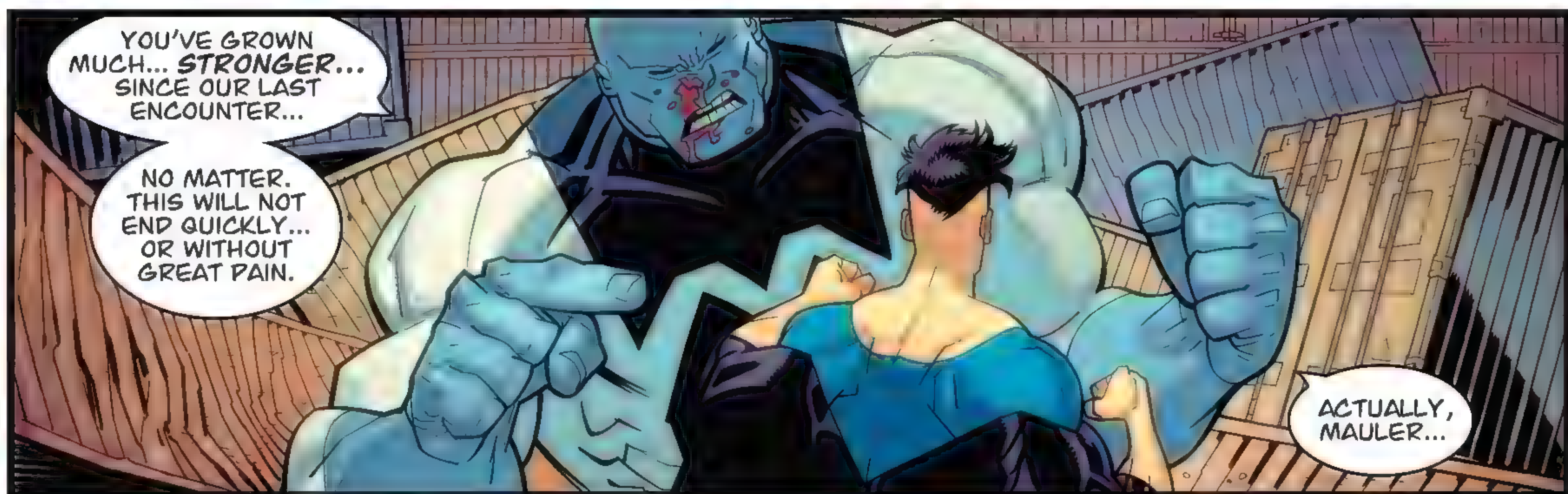


WHAT  
THE  
HECK?!

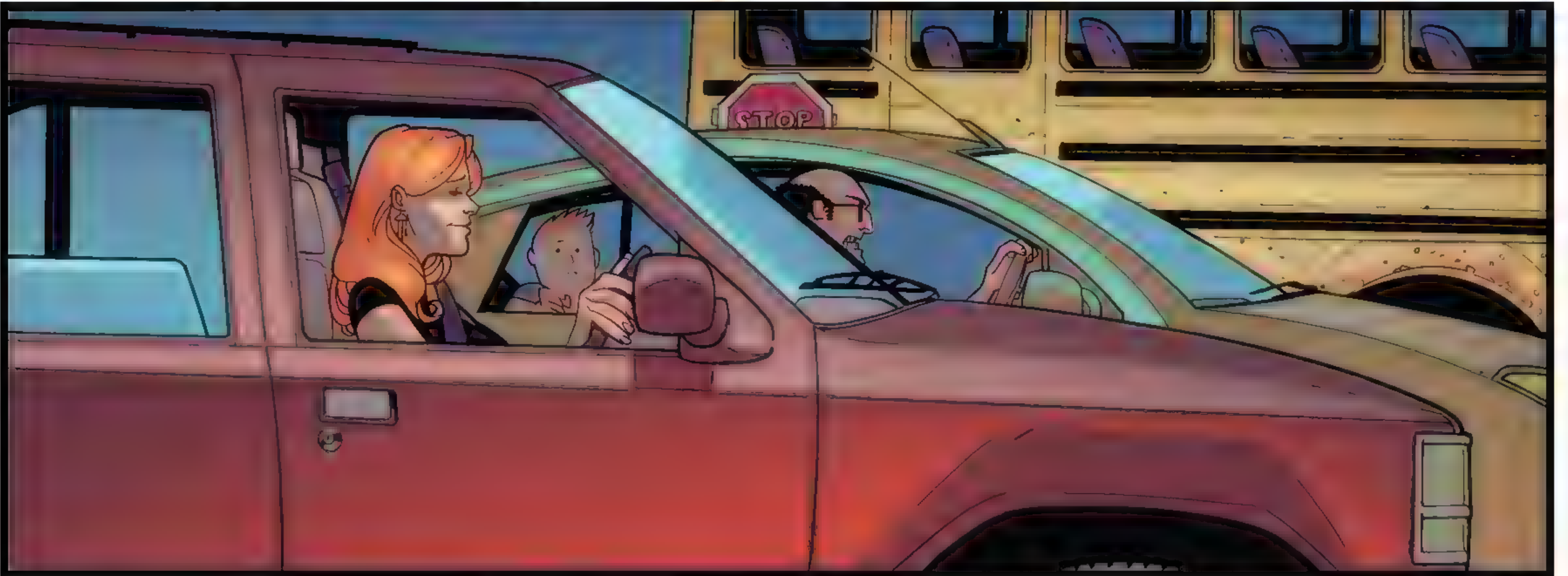
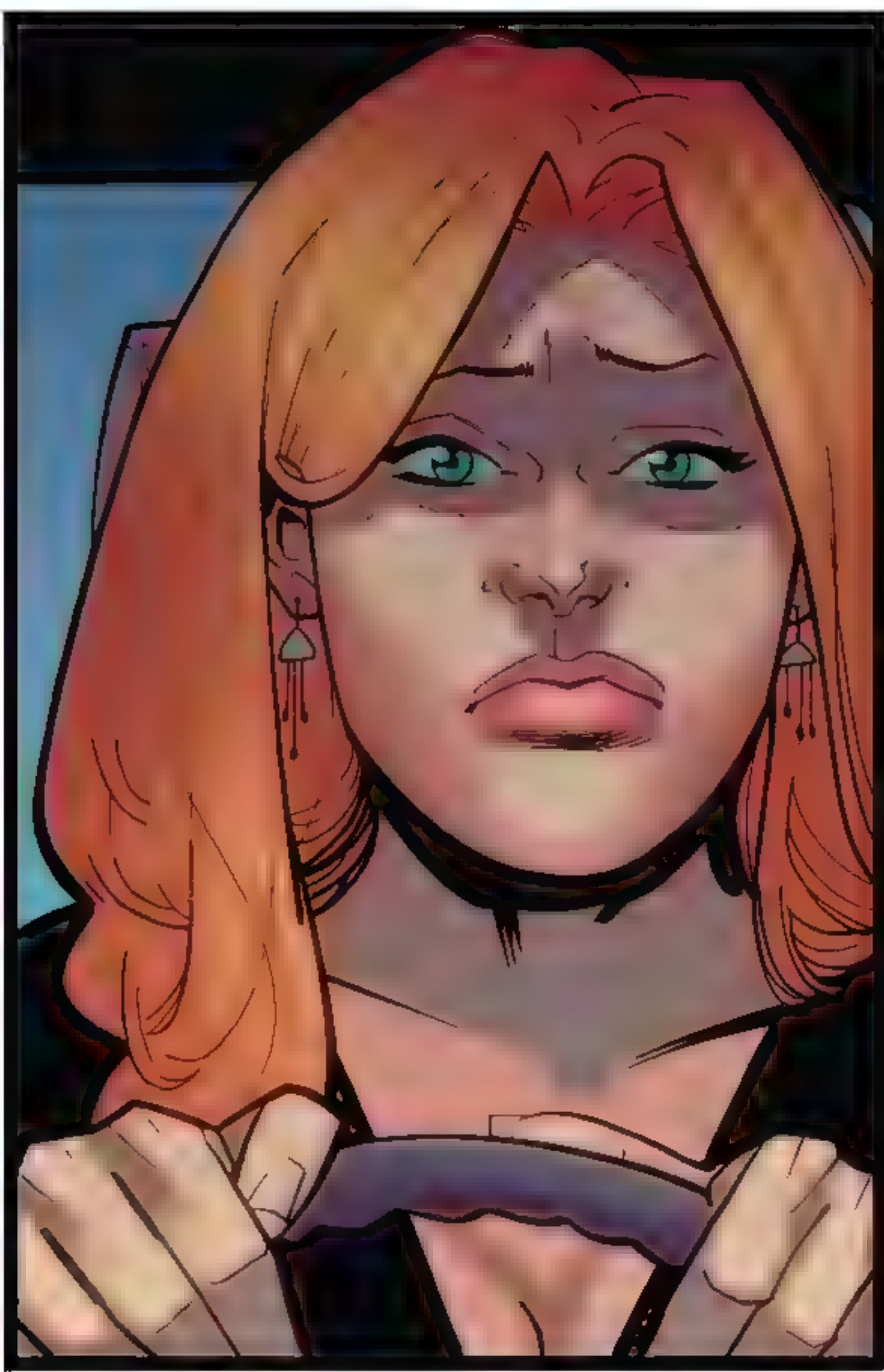
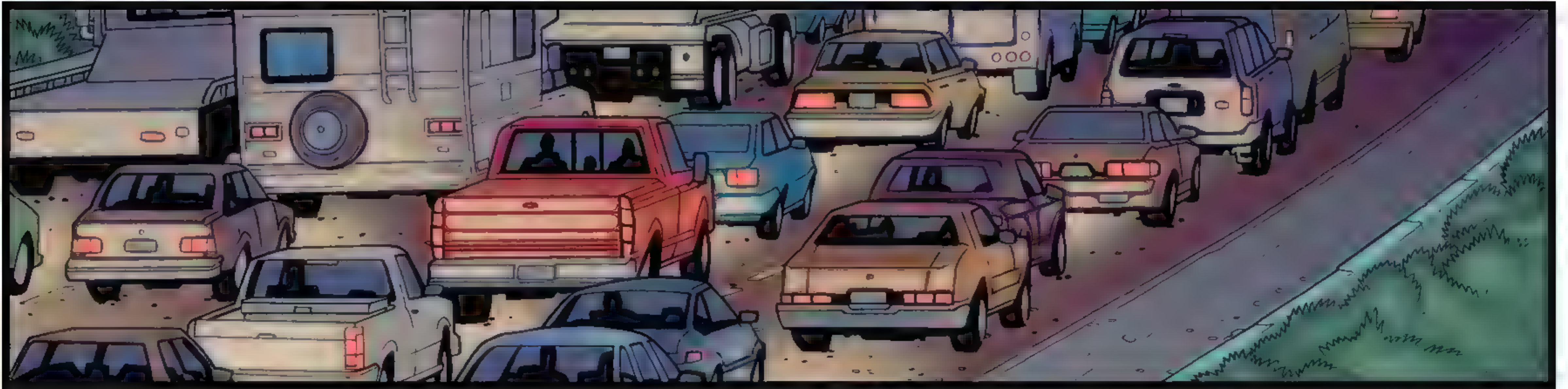
I THOUGHT  
YOU WERE  
DEAD!\*

\*LOOKS LIKE SOMEONE DIDN'T READ  
GUARDING THE GLOBE VOLUME 2:  
HARD TO KILL... AVAILABLE NOW!

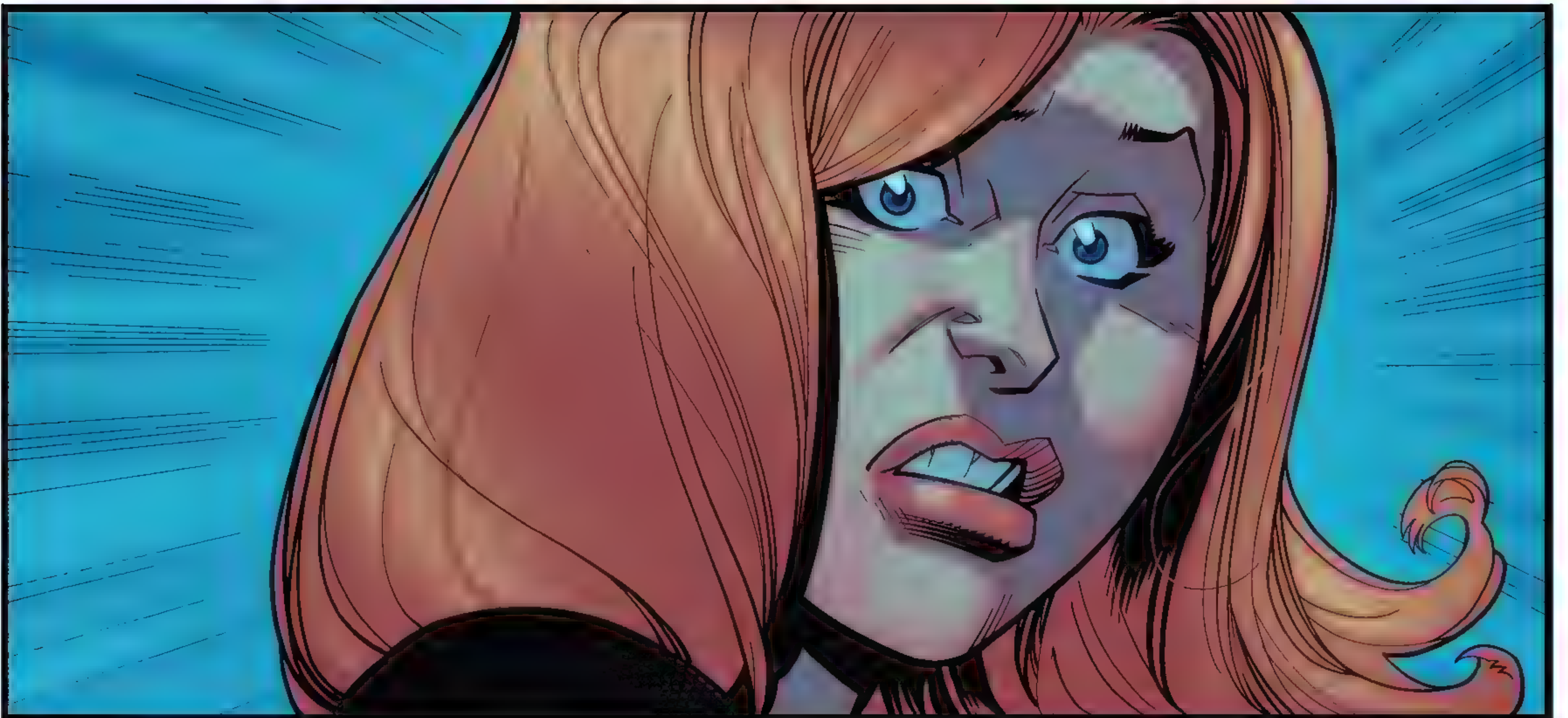
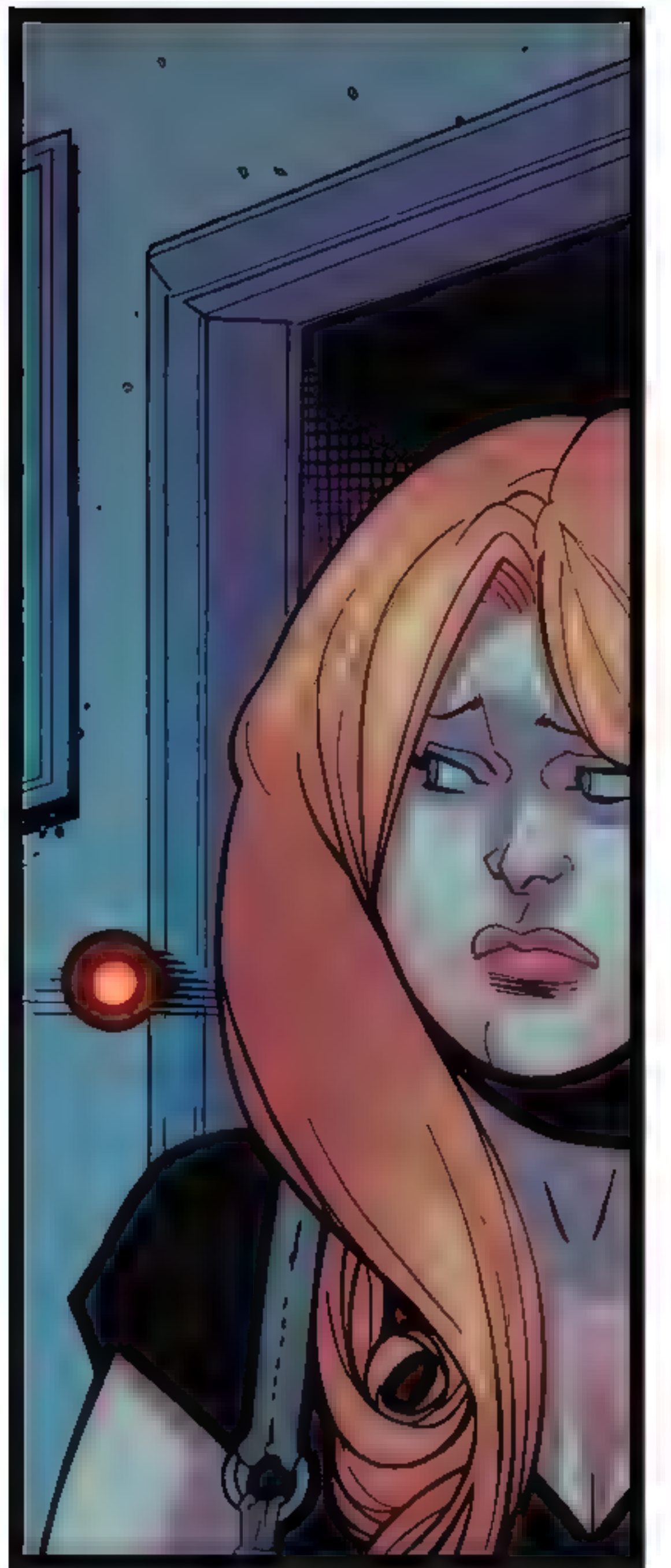
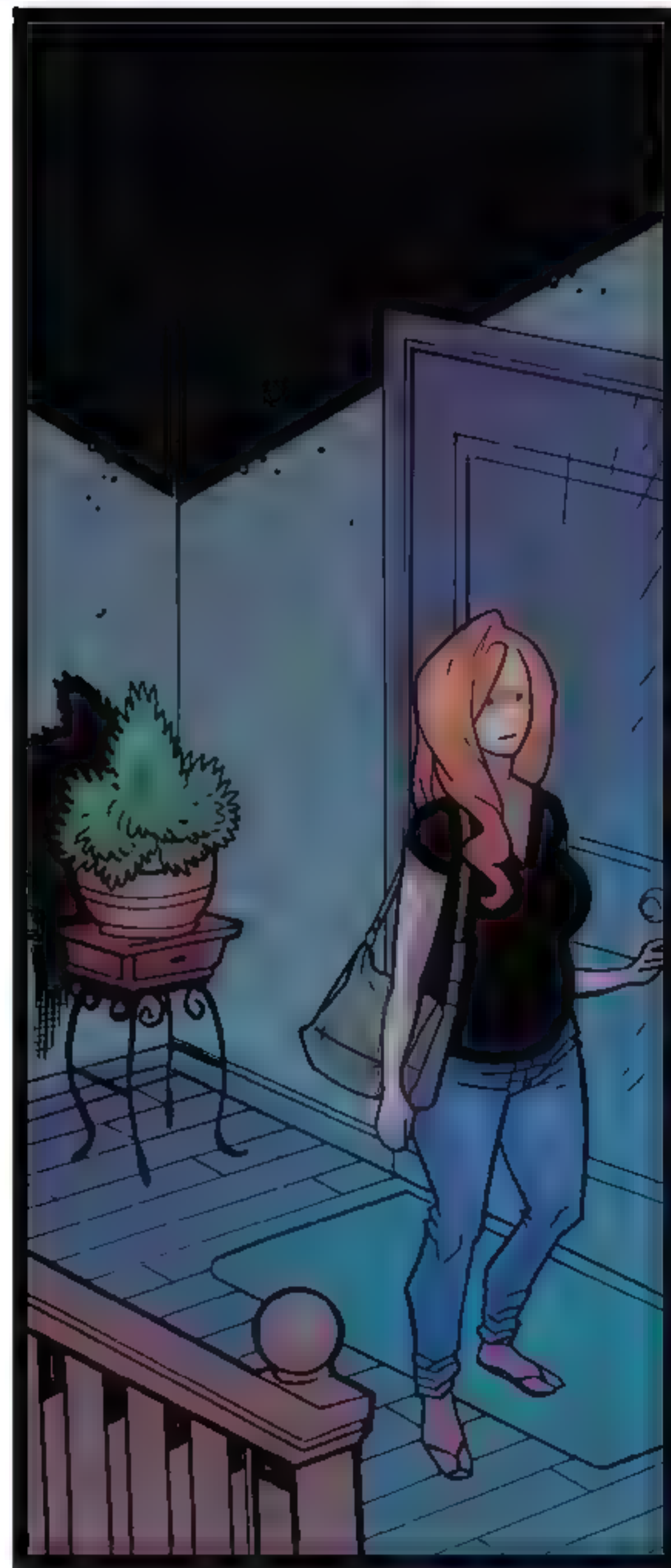
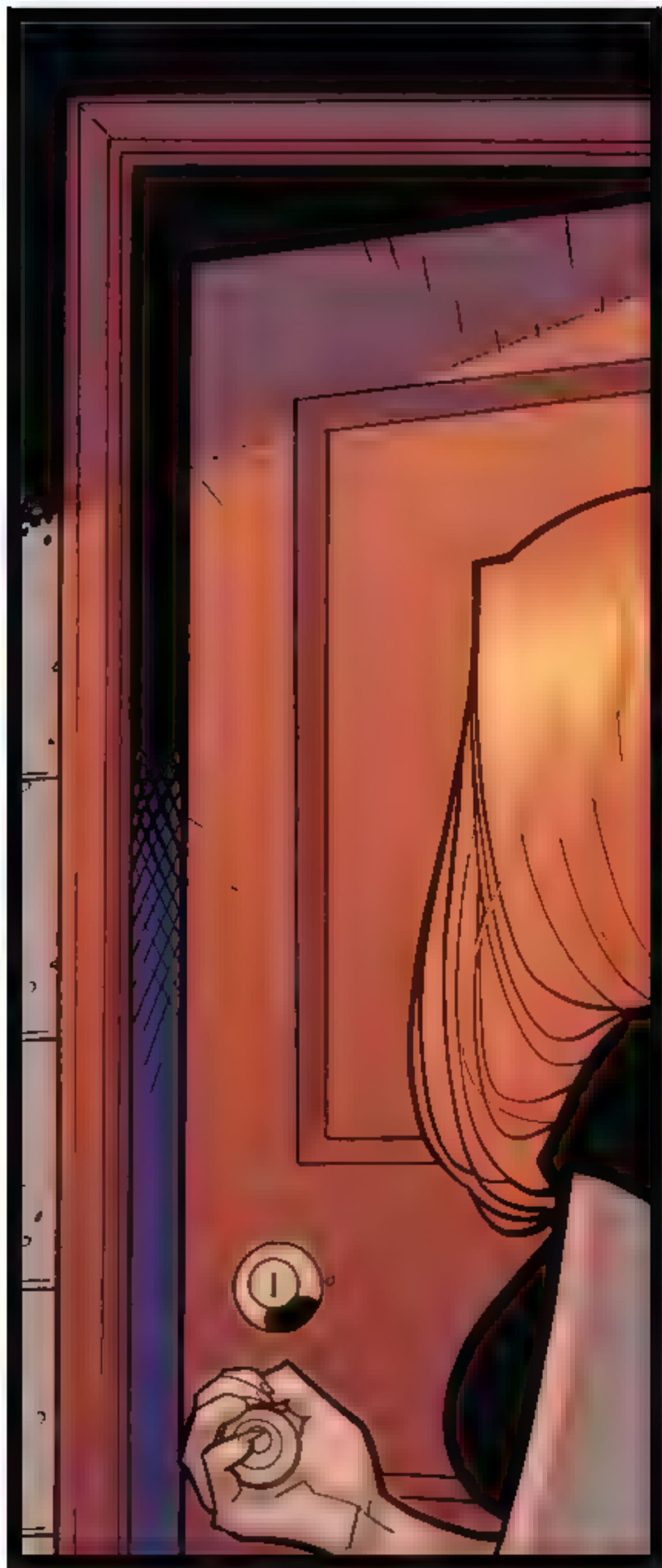
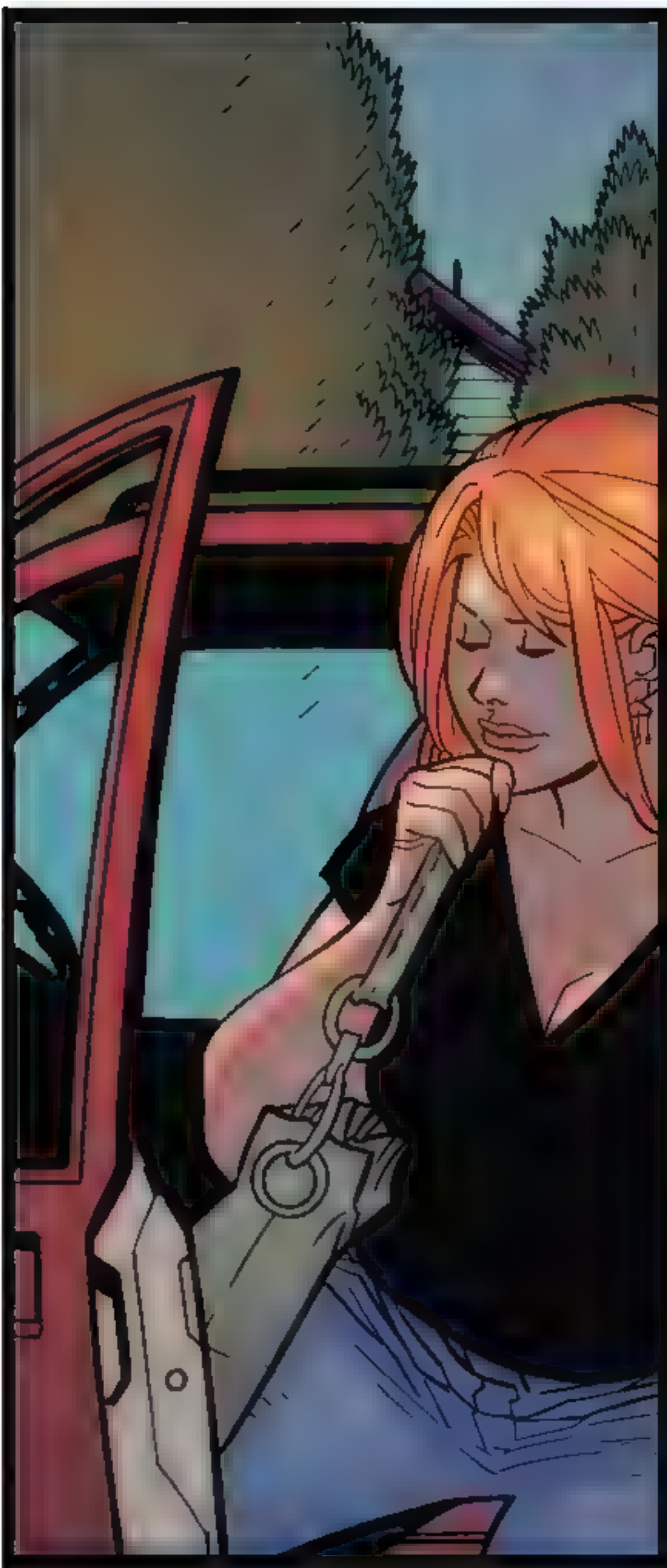
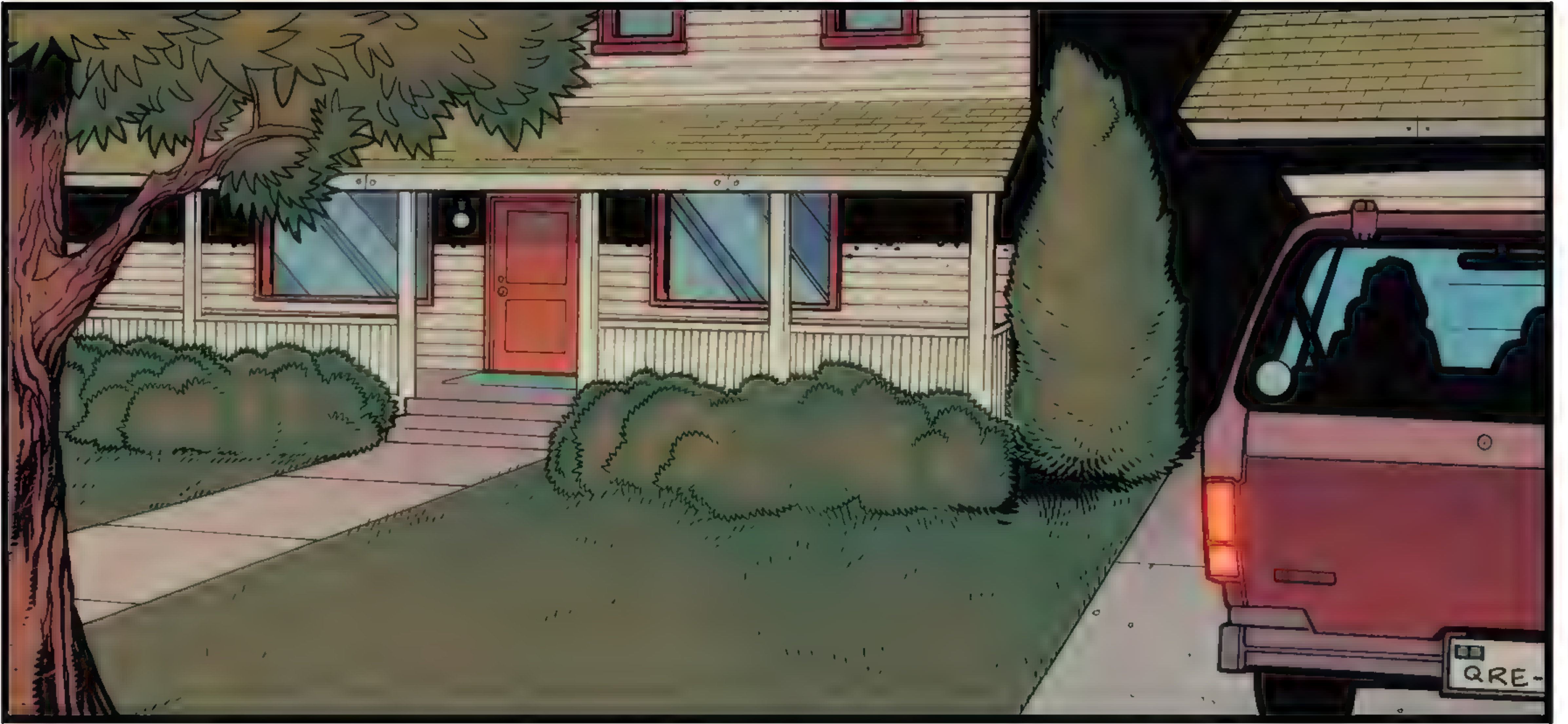














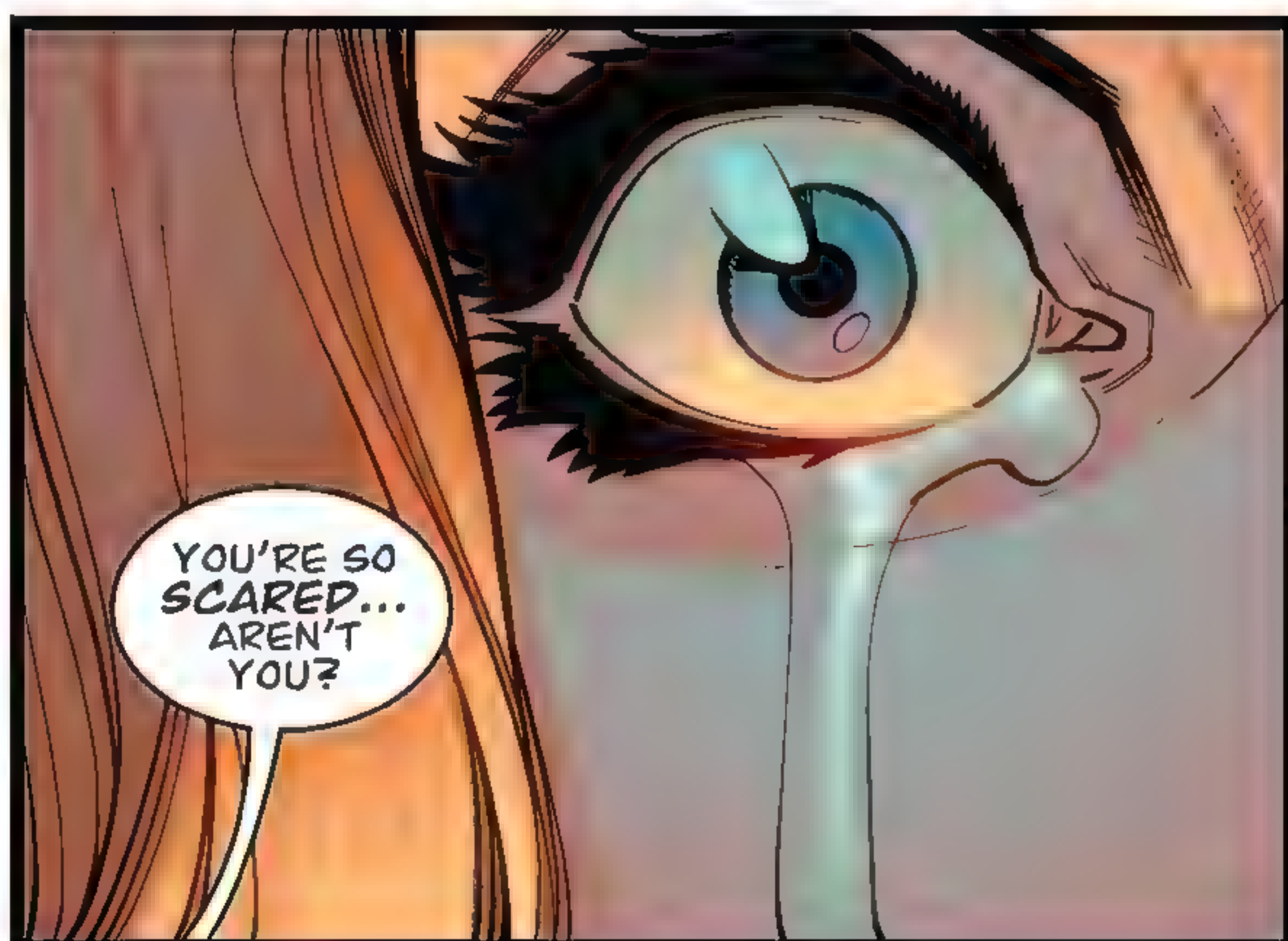
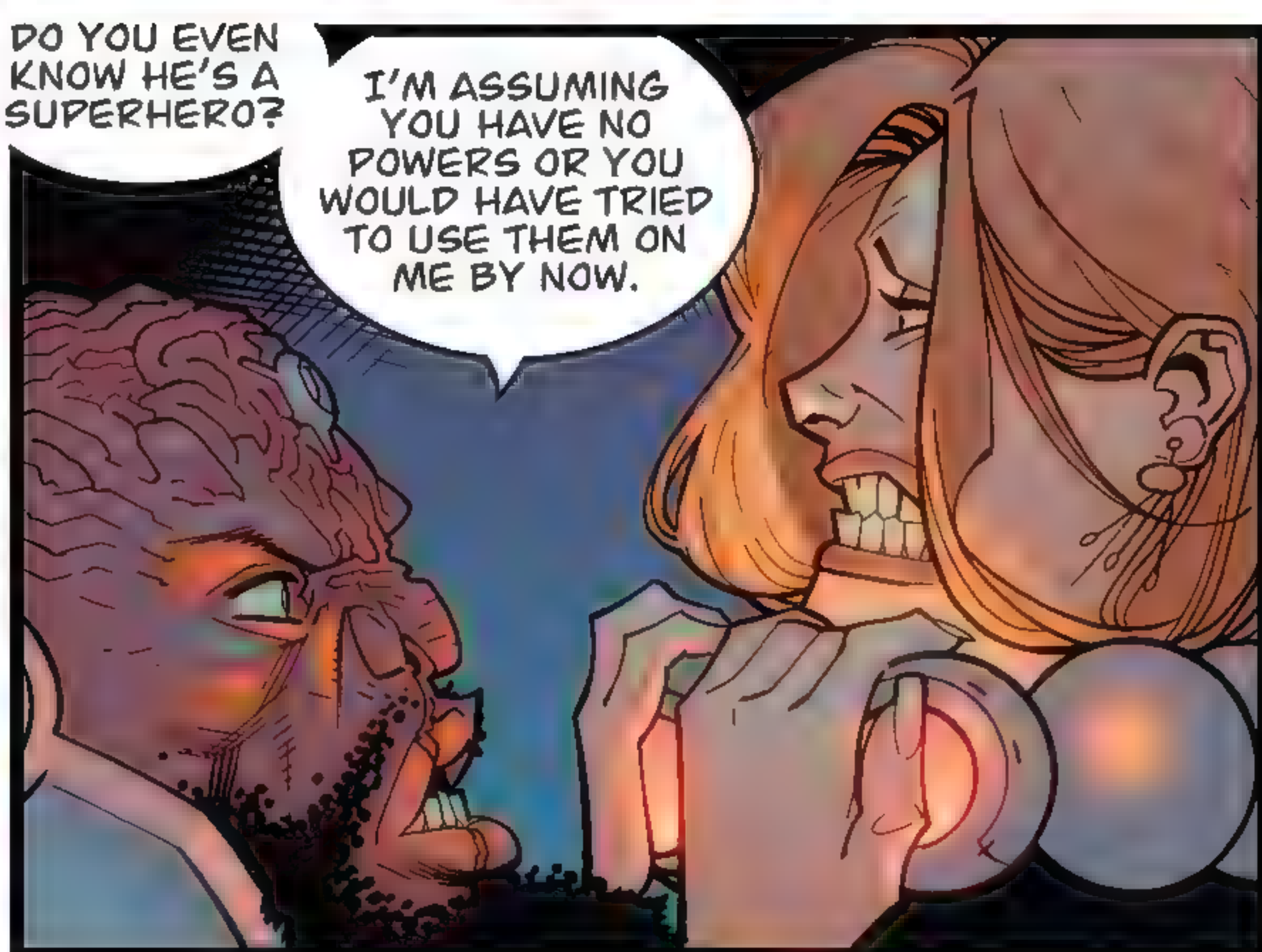


NOW!

FWOOM!

I HONESTLY  
EXPECTED HIS  
MOTHER. THIS IS  
MUCH MORE  
INTERESTING...

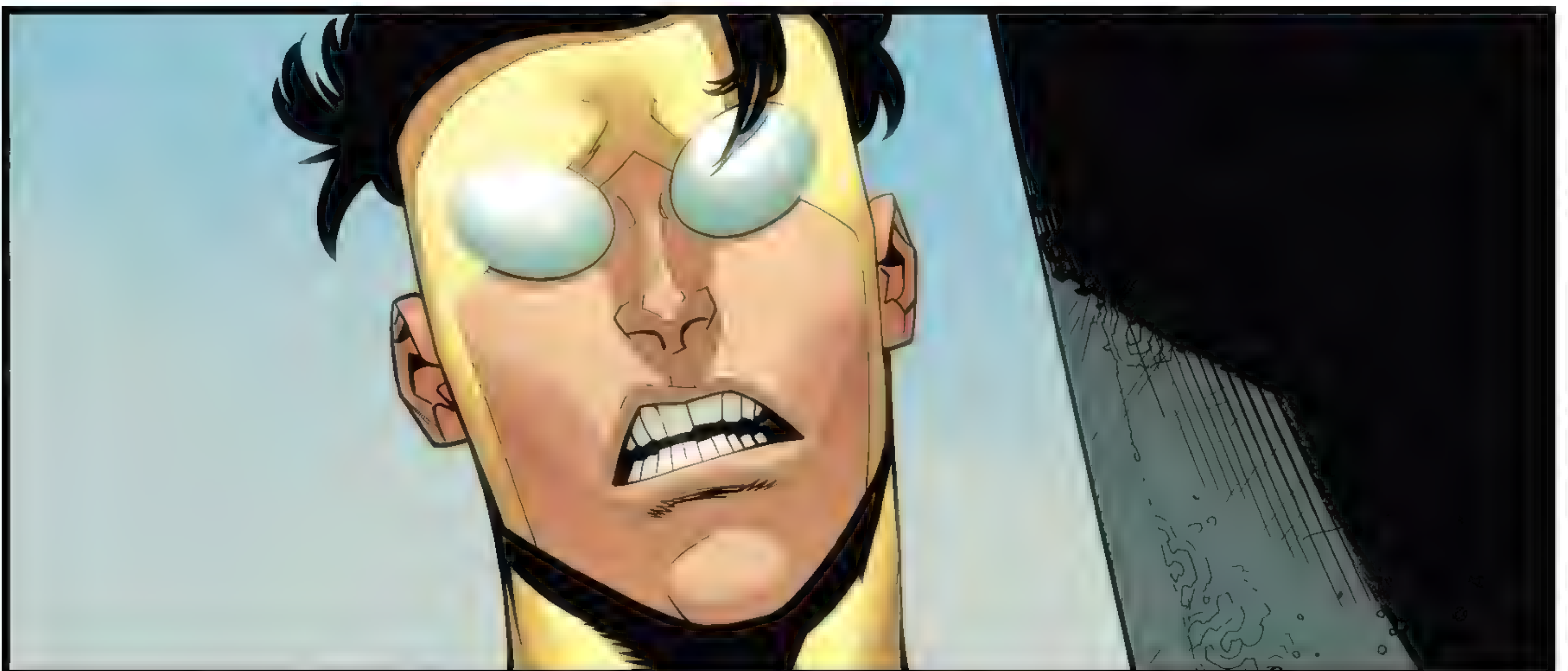
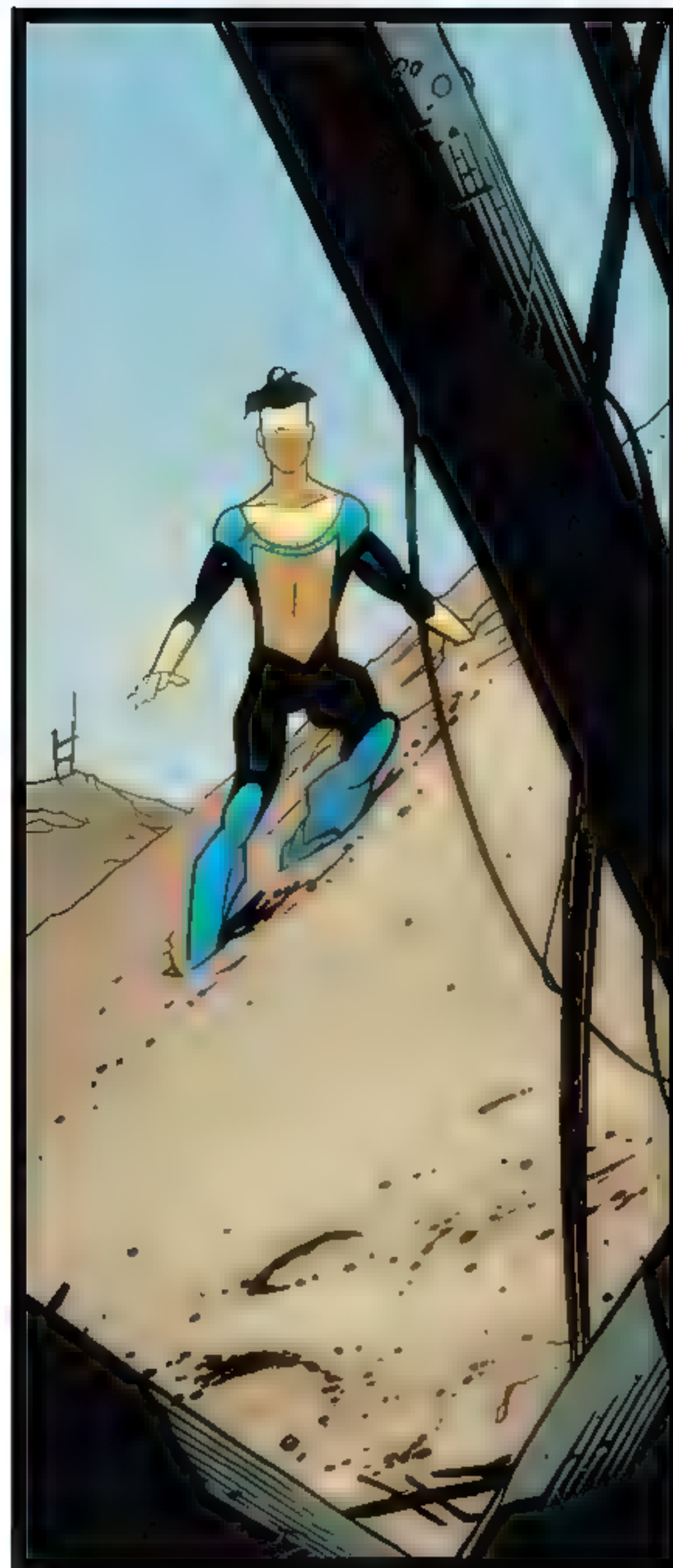
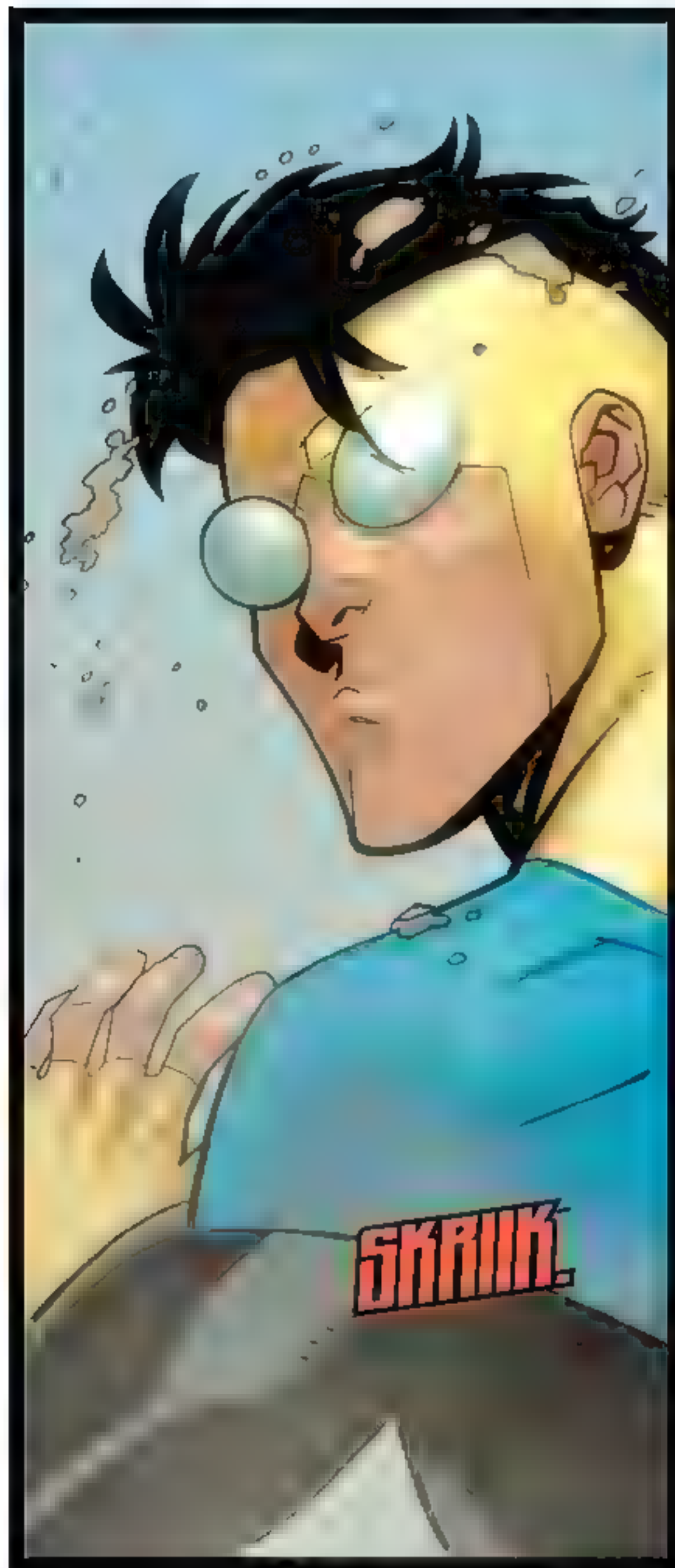
















OH,  
GOOD.

YOU  
ARRIVED  
JUST IN  
TIME FOR  
DINNER.



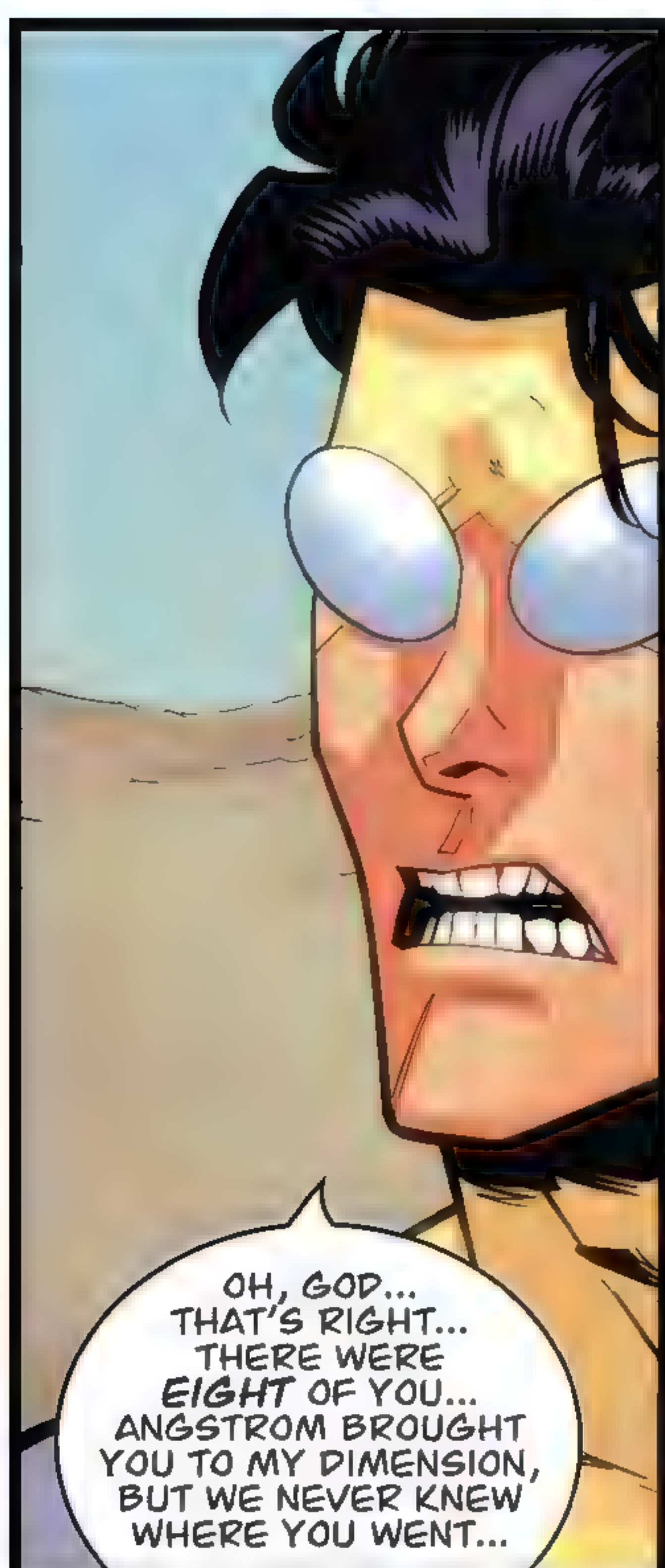




# CHAPTER TWO



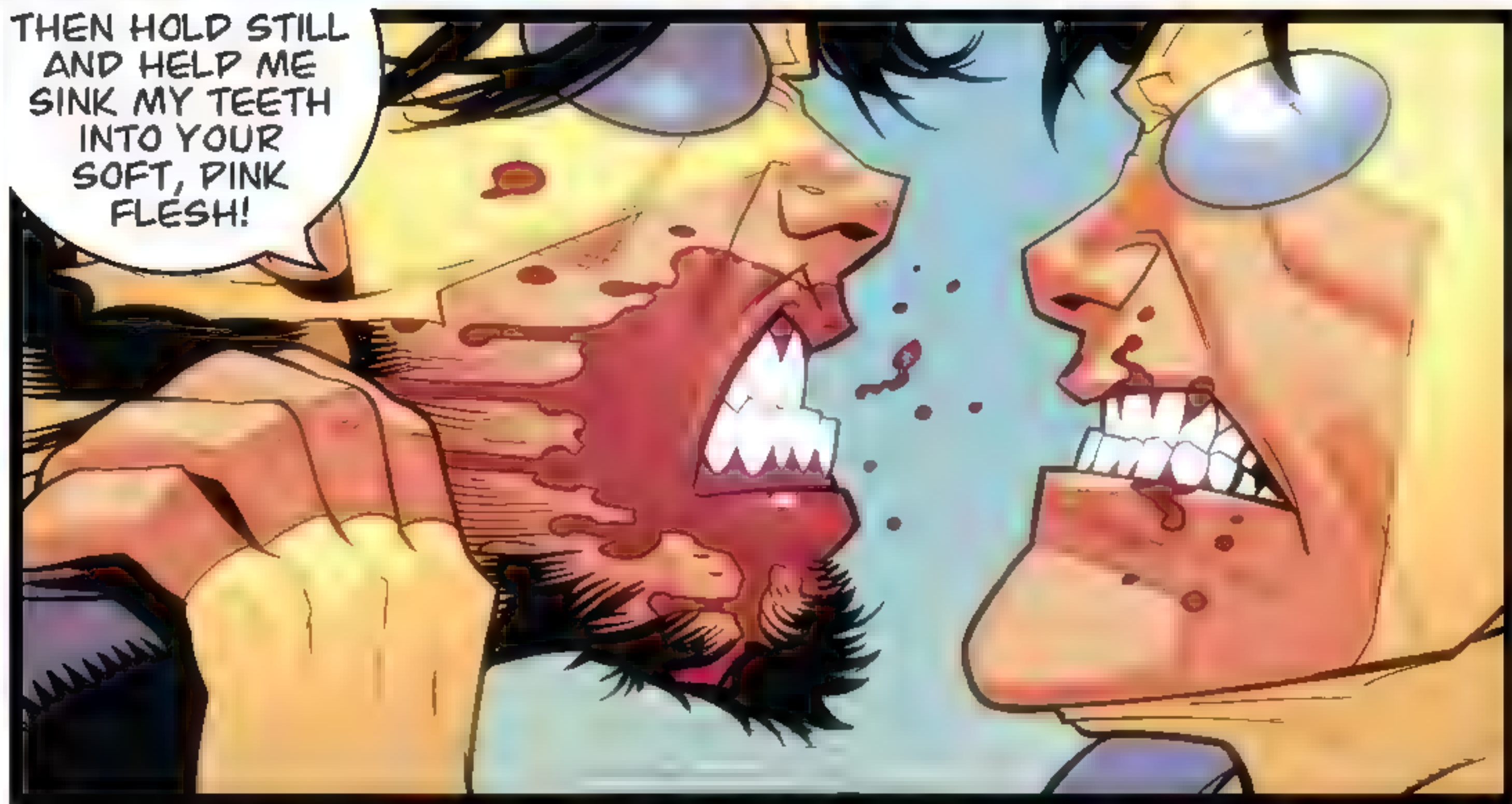




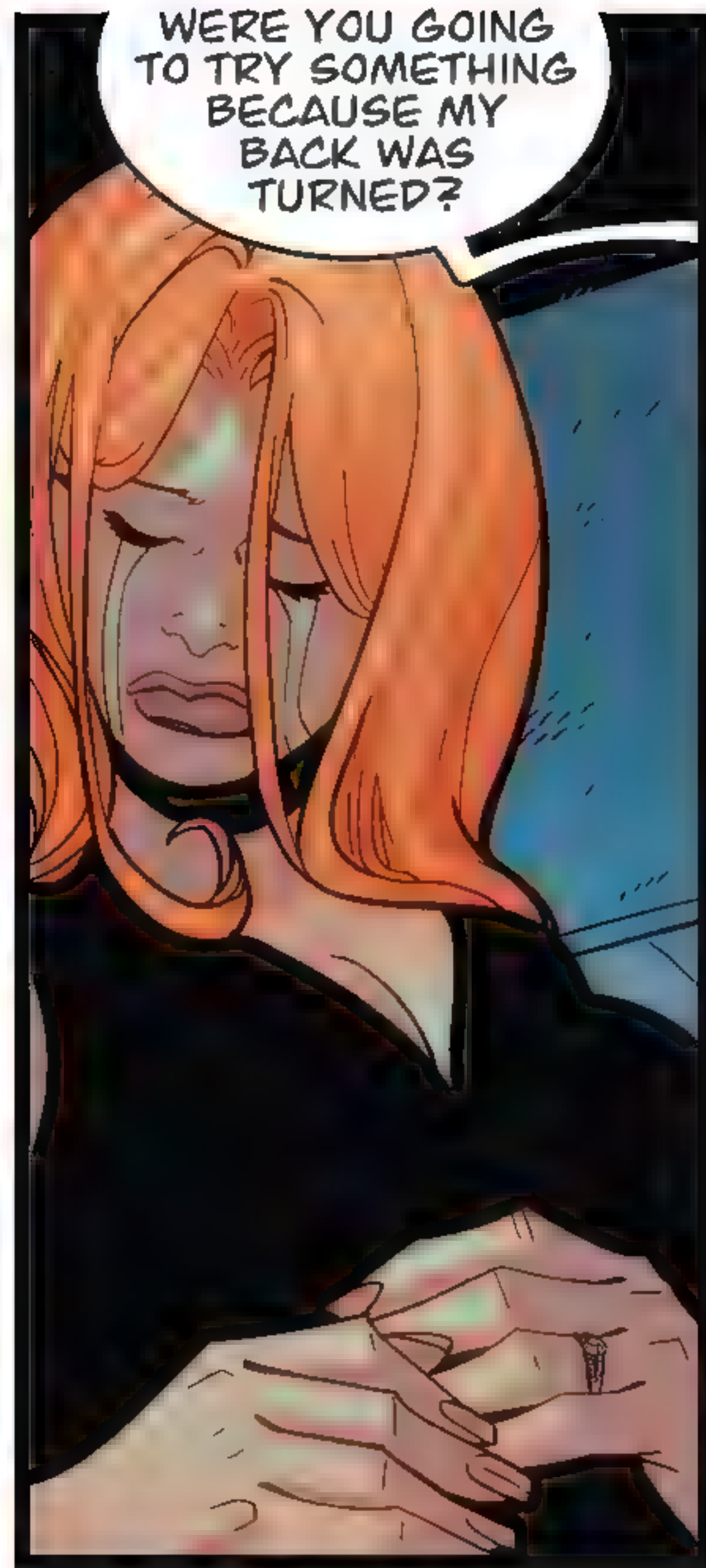
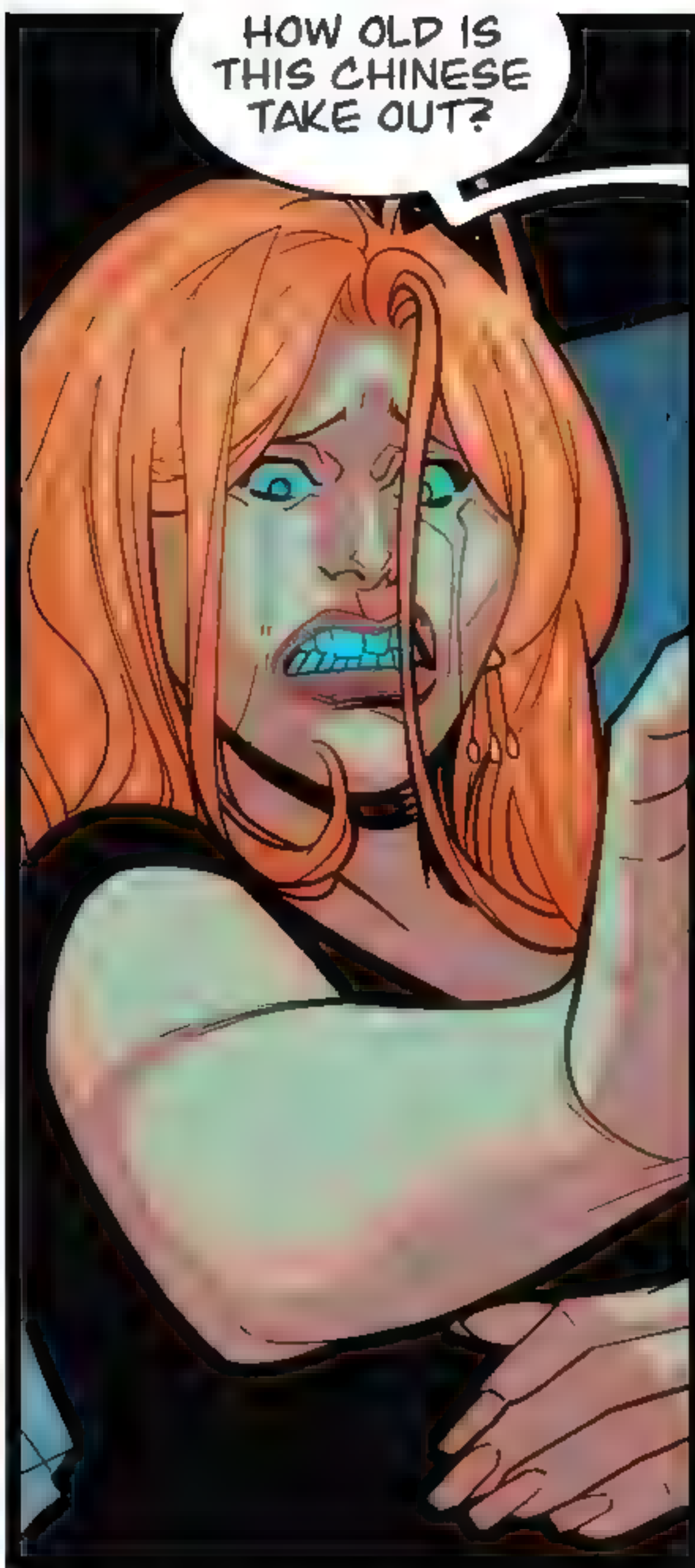














WAIT A  
MINUTE...  
YOU ARE  
HER!

HE WAS  
WITH SOME  
NORMAL GIRL  
WHEN WE FIRST  
STARTED OUR  
SPARRING. I  
THOUGHT THIS WAS  
A DIMENSION WHERE  
HE SOMEHOW  
DIDN'T END UP  
WITH YOU.

THE  
MIGHTY  
ATOM  
EVE.

AND IN THIS  
DIMENSION  
YOU HAVE  
A MIGHTY  
WAISTLINE,  
TOO!

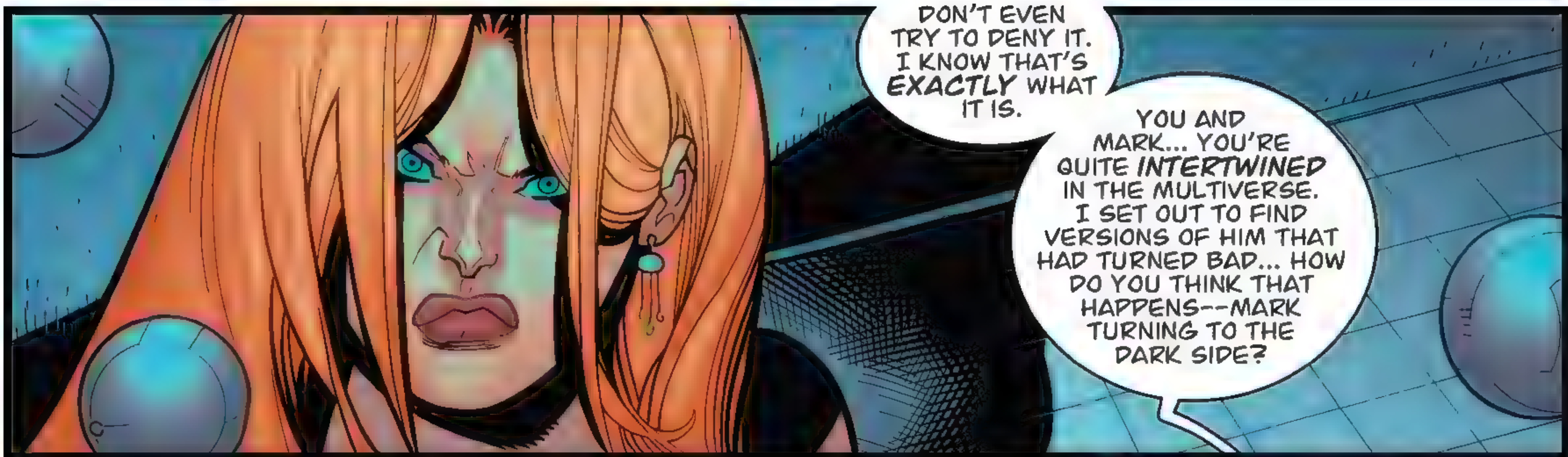
WHICH IS STRANGE...  
YOU'RE SO VERY  
**ACTIVE** IN ALL THE  
OTHER DIMENSIONS  
WHERE I'VE  
OBSERVED  
YOU.

AND THEN  
THERE'S THE  
STRANGE FACT THAT  
YOU HAVEN'T BOTHERED  
TO ATTACK ME THE  
ENTIRE TIME I'VE BEEN  
HERE... EVEN WHEN MY  
ORBS NEARLY **CHOKED**  
THE LIFE OUT OF  
YOU...

HMMMM...

YOU'RE  
**PREGNANT**...  
AREN'T  
YOU?



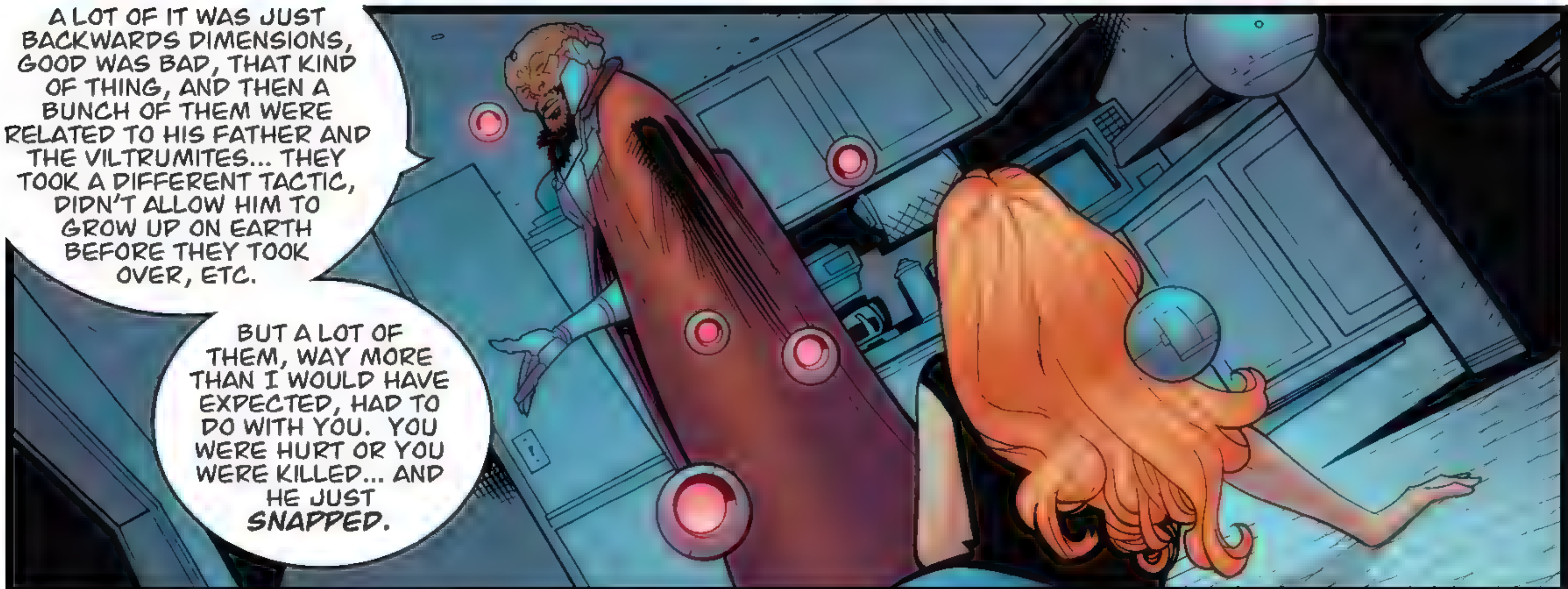


DON'T EVEN TRY TO DENY IT. I KNOW THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT IT IS.

YOU AND MARK... YOU'RE QUITE **INTERTWINED** IN THE MULTIVERSE. I SET OUT TO FIND VERSIONS OF HIM THAT HAD TURNED BAD... HOW DO YOU THINK THAT HAPPENS--MARK TURNING TO THE DARK SIDE?

A LOT OF IT WAS JUST BACKWARDS DIMENSIONS, GOOD WAS BAD, THAT KIND OF THING, AND THEN A BUNCH OF THEM WERE RELATED TO HIS FATHER AND THE VILTRUMITES... THEY TOOK A DIFFERENT TACTIC, DIDN'T ALLOW HIM TO GROW UP ON EARTH BEFORE THEY TOOK OVER, ETC.

BUT A LOT OF THEM, WAY MORE THAN I WOULD HAVE EXPECTED, HAD TO DO WITH YOU. YOU WERE HURT OR YOU WERE KILLED... AND HE JUST **SNAPPED**.



THERE WAS ONE IN PARTICULAR, WHERE THE LIZARD LEAGUE WAS FAR MORE DANGEROUS THAN THEY ARE HERE--THEY CAME AFTER YOU, AND YOU WERE PREGNANT.

USING YOUR POWERS WOULD KILL THE CHILD... BUT IF YOU DIDN'T USE YOUR POWERS... THEY WOULD KILL YOU BOTH. YOU WERE SO **CONFIDENT** THAT YOU ACTUALLY BELIEVED YOU COULD GET OUT OF IT WITHOUT YOUR POWERS.

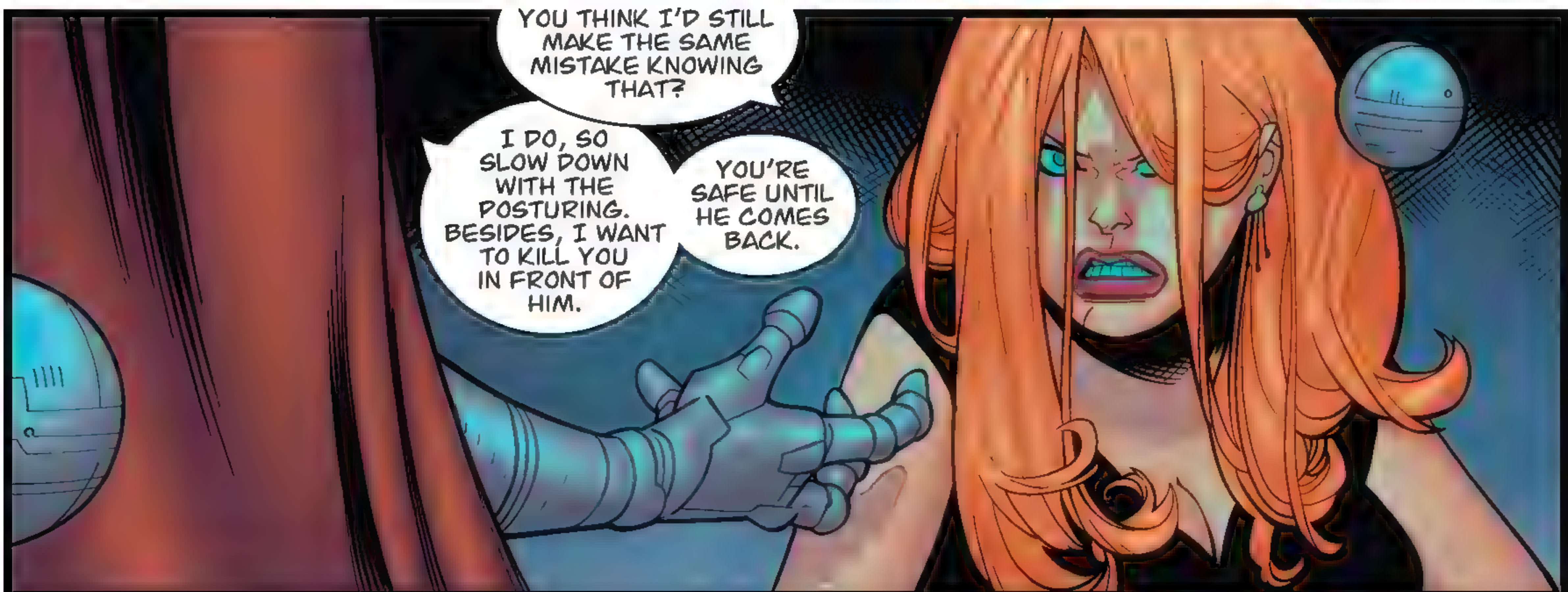


AND YOU **DIED**... TAKING YOUR UNBORN CHILD WITH YOU.

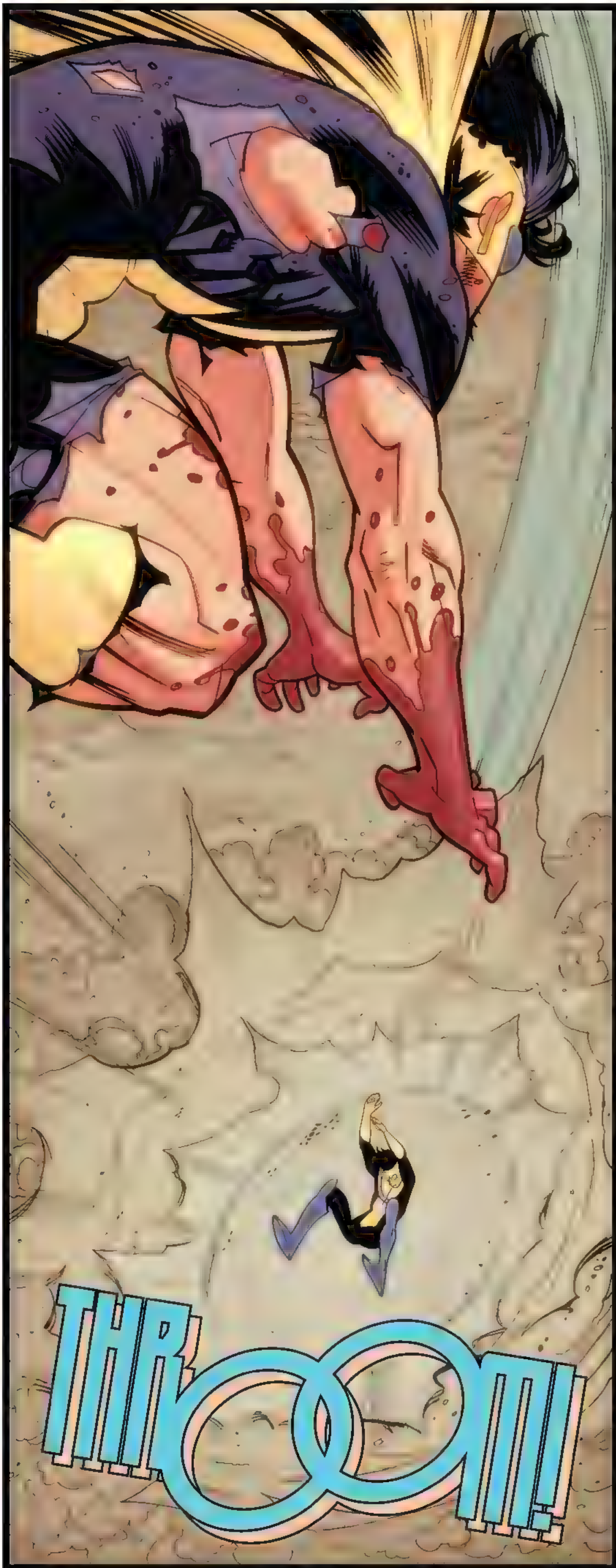
YOU THINK I'D STILL MAKE THE SAME MISTAKE KNOWING THAT?

I DO, SO SLOW DOWN WITH THE POSTURING. BESIDES, I WANT TO KILL YOU IN FRONT OF HIM.

YOU'RE SAFE UNTIL HE COMES BACK.











COME ON.  
THAT WON'T SLOW HIM DOWN LONG.



I DON'T CARE WHO YOU ARE, HE'S GOING TO KILL YOU, HE TRIED TO KILL ME. IF WE WORK TOGETHER WE CAN STOP HIM FROM KILLING BOTH OF US.  
I THINK.

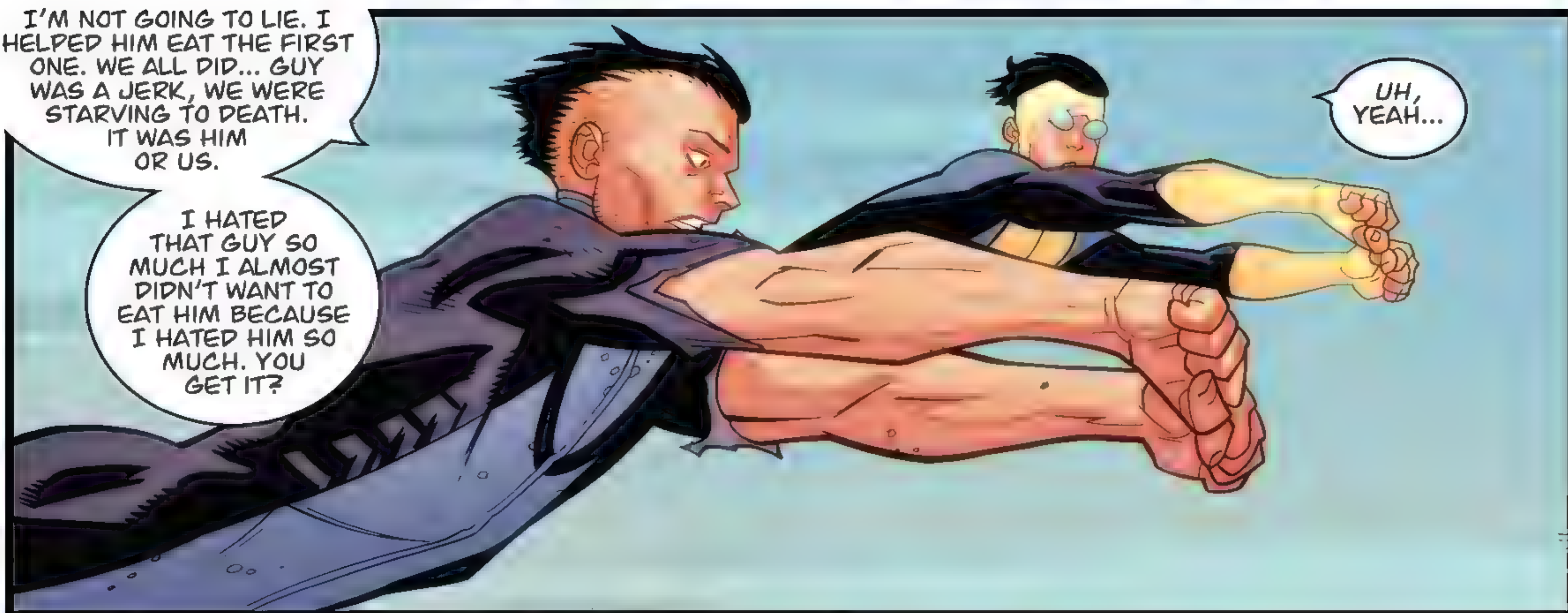
SURE, UH... SOUNDS LIKE A PLAN.



I'M NOT GOING TO LIE. I HELPED HIM EAT THE FIRST ONE. WE ALL DID... GUY WAS A JERK, WE WERE STARVING TO DEATH. IT WAS HIM OR US.

I HATED THAT GUY SO MUCH I ALMOST DIDN'T WANT TO EAT HIM BECAUSE I HATED HIM SO MUCH. YOU GET IT?

UH, YEAH...



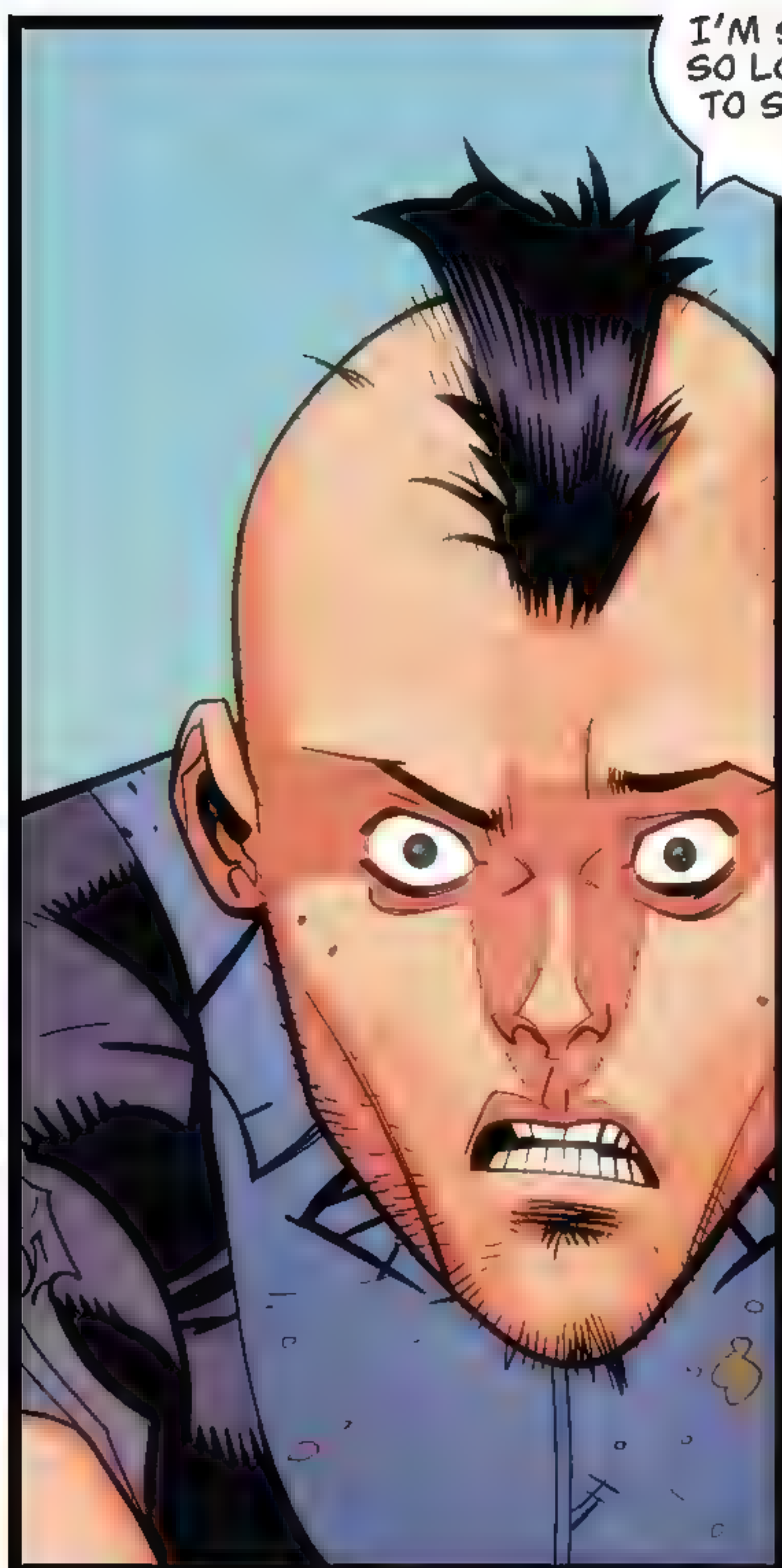
I'M SORRY, IT'S JUST BEEN SO LONG SINCE I'VE TALKED TO SOMEONE... IT'S REALLY NICE TO BE ABLE TO TALK.

I'M SO THIRSTY.

YEAH, I GET THAT... THIS PLACE IS DRY... NOT A LOT OF WATER, HUH?

RIGHT. BEEN DRINKING MY SWEAT... OTHER STUFF...

CRAP. HE FOUND US.





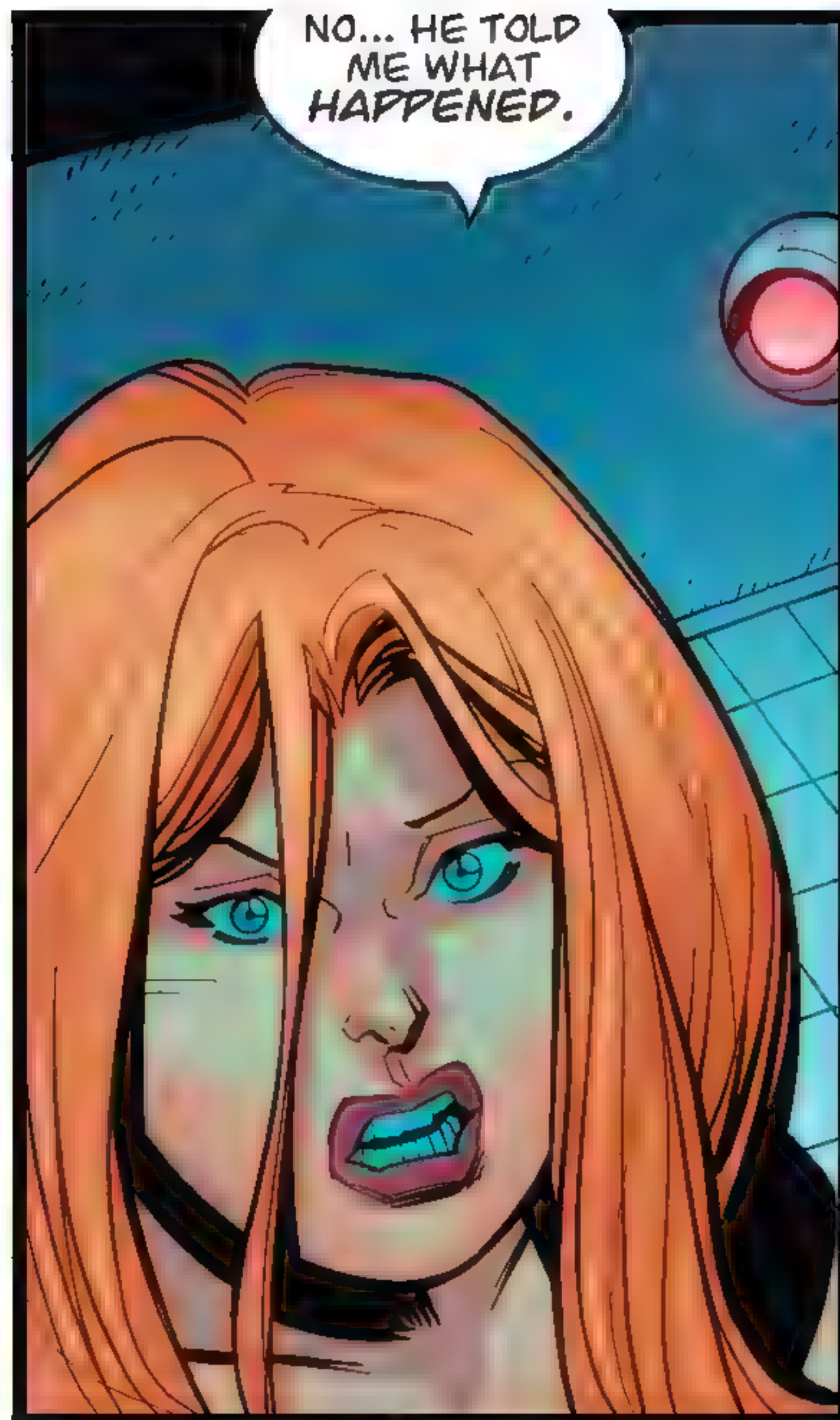


MARK TOLD ME HOW YOU GOT LIKE THIS.



HE TOLD YOU WHAT HE DID?

HOW HE TURNED ME INTO A FREAK?!



NO... HE TOLD ME WHAT HAPPENED.



YOU MEAN HOW HE INTERRUPTED MY EXPERIMENT--KILLING MY COUNTERPARTS FROM OTHER DIMENSIONS... EFFECTIVELY ERASING ME FROM THE MULTIVERSE!

NO... PLEASE... I WANT TO HEAR HIS VERSION.

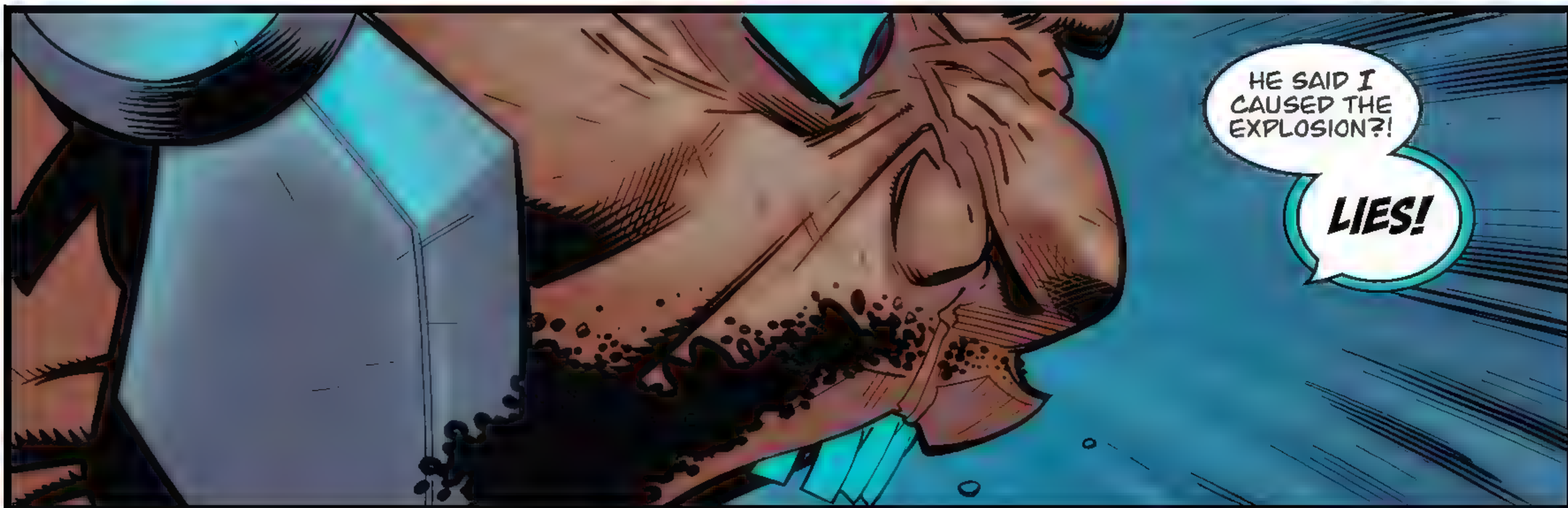


YOU'D GOTTEN THE MAULER TWINS TO HELP YOU TRANSFER THE MEMORIES OF ALL YOUR COUNTERPARTS INTO YOUR HEAD--SO YOU'D KNOW ALL ABOUT ALL THE OTHER DIMENSIONS.

AND WHEN HE SHOWED UP TO STOP THINGS, YOU BROUGHT IN A BUNCH OF OTHER ALTERNATE REALITY MAULERS... AND THEY WERE BEATING MARK TO DEATH.

HE TOLD ME... YOU SAVED HIM--YOU PULLED YOURSELF OUT OF THE MACHINE MID-PROCESS... AND THAT CAUSED AN EXPLOSION... THAT RESULTED IN YOUR DISFIGUREMENT... AND THE DEATHS OF YOUR COUNTERPARTS.\*

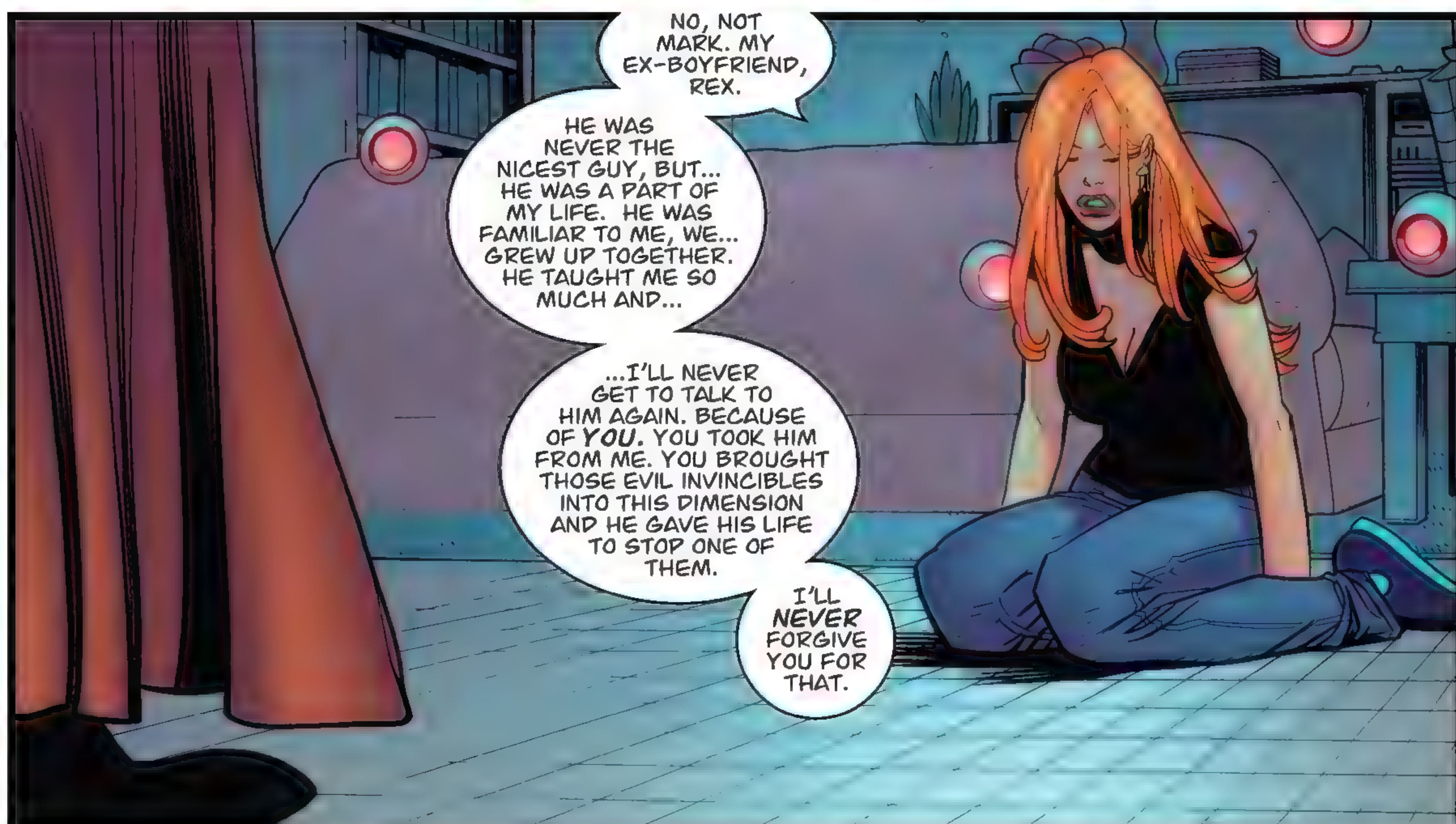
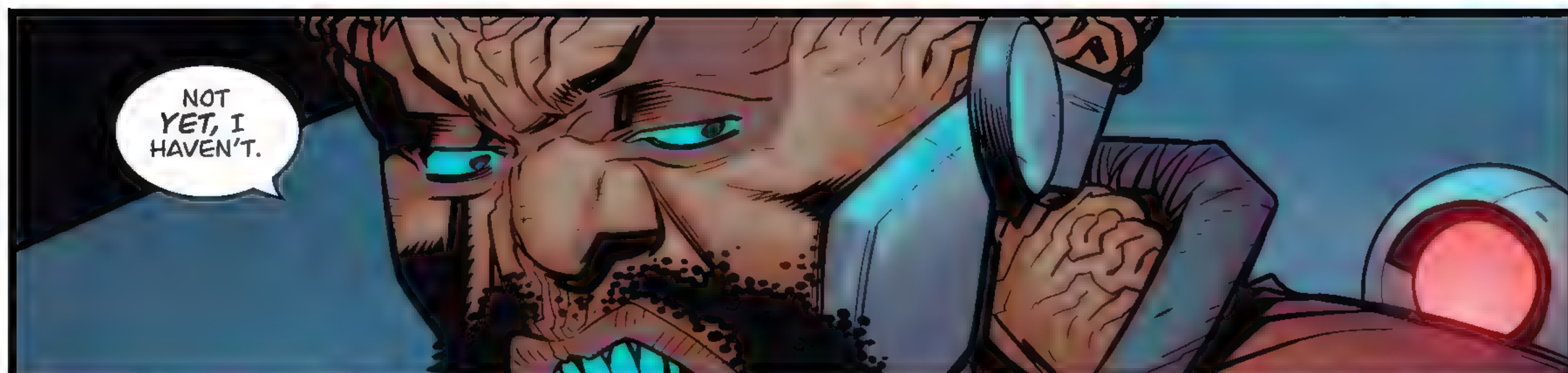
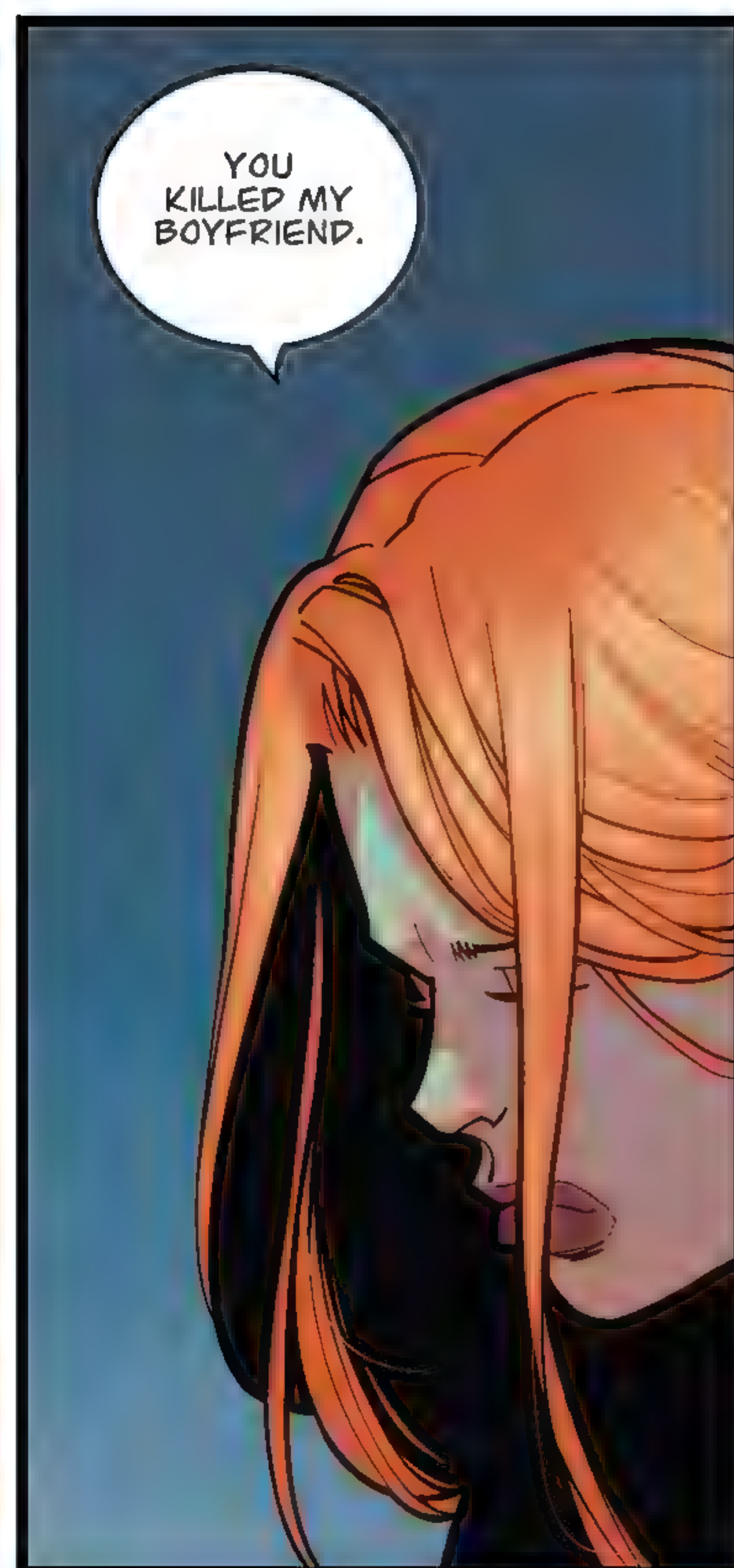
\*IT ALL HAPPENED IN ISSUE 33.



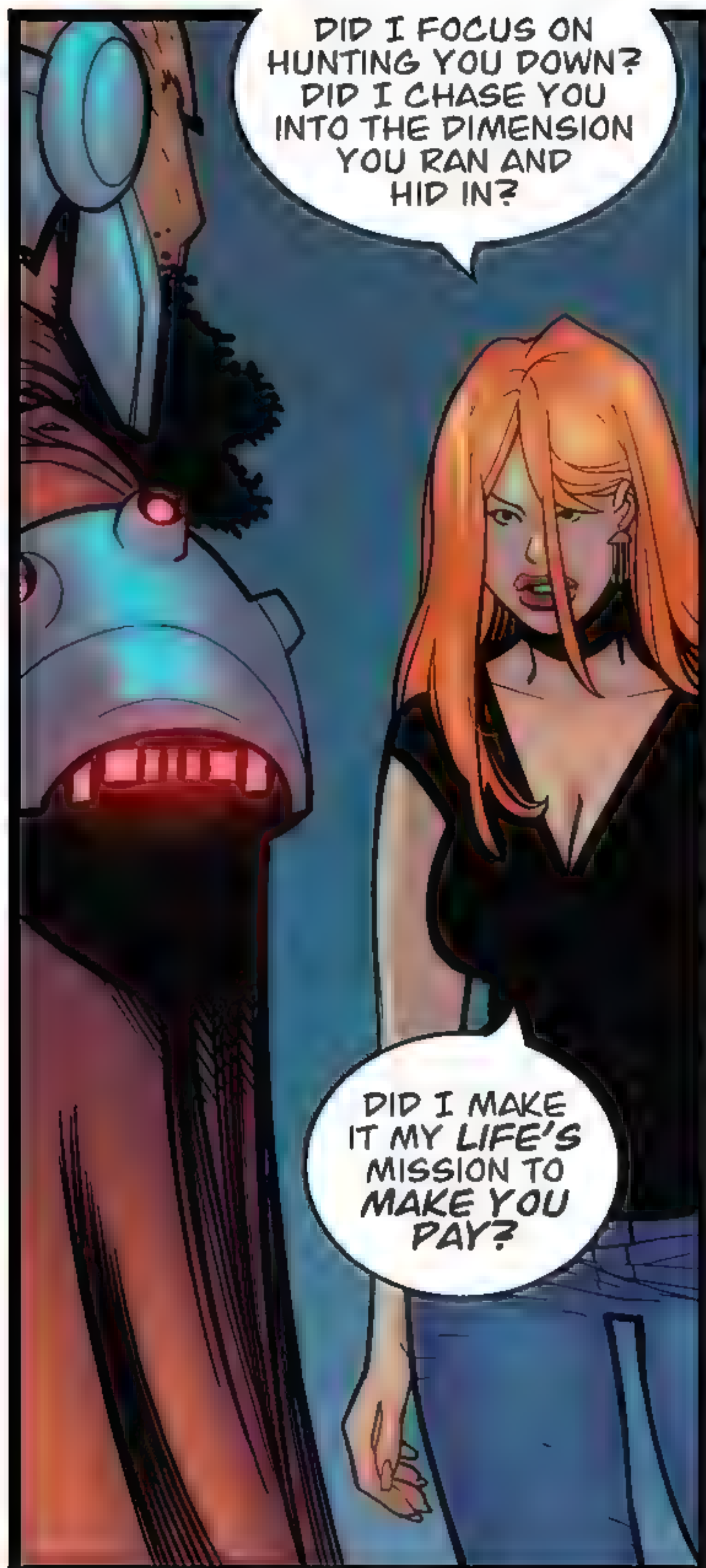
HE SAID I CAUSED THE EXPLOSION?!

**LIES!**



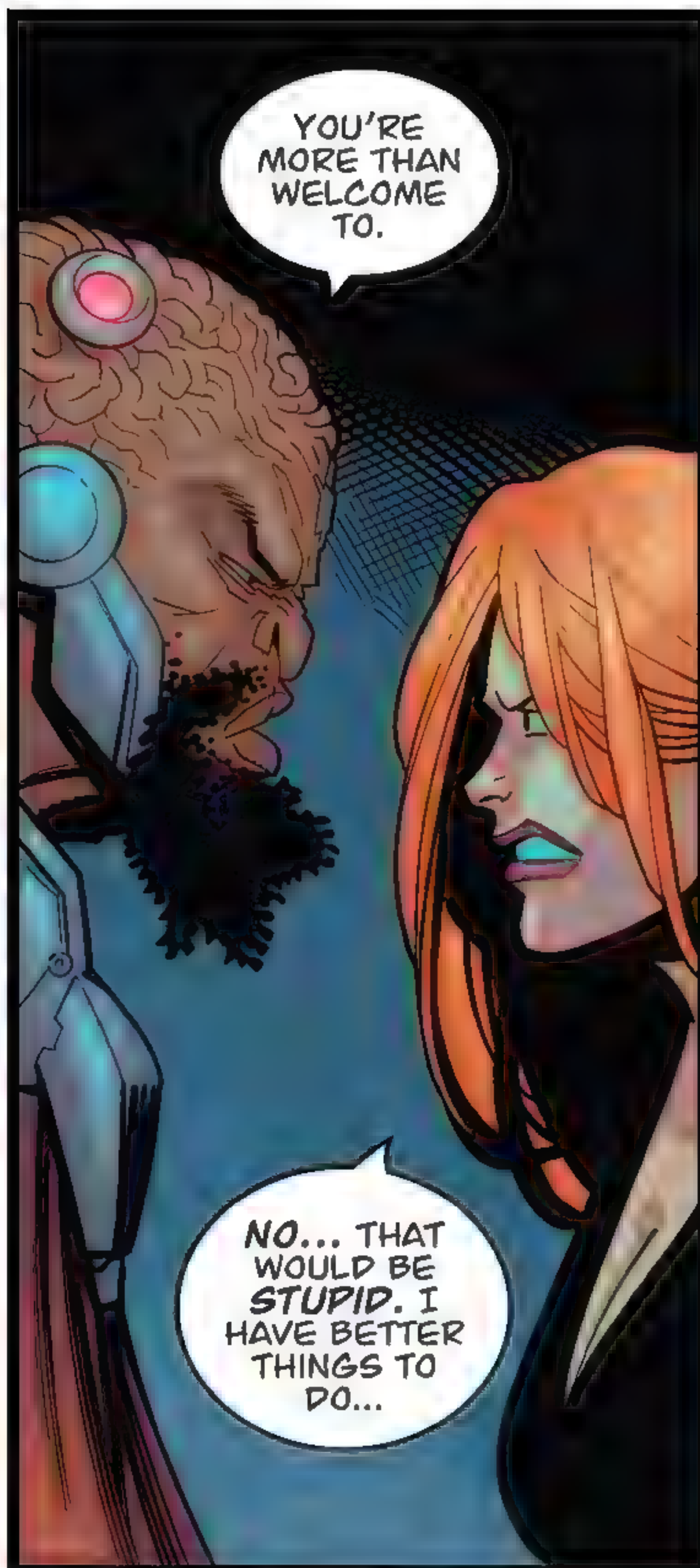






DID I FOCUS ON  
HUNTING YOU DOWN?  
DID I CHASE YOU  
INTO THE DIMENSION  
YOU RAN AND  
HID IN?

DID I MAKE  
IT MY LIFE'S  
MISSION TO  
MAKE YOU  
PAY?



YOU'RE  
MORE THAN  
WELCOME  
TO.

NO... THAT  
WOULD BE  
**STUPID**. I  
HAVE BETTER  
THINGS TO  
DO...

I KNEW YOU'D  
PAY FOR WHAT  
YOU DID... YOU'D  
BE BROUGHT  
TO JUSTICE  
EVENTUALLY.

I REBUILT  
MY LIFE, I  
GREW AS A  
PERSON, I USED  
THE LOSS OF REX  
AS A LESSON, TO DO  
WHAT I WANTED, TO  
LIVE EACH DAY TO  
ITS FULLEST... ALL  
THAT CRAP.



WHEN MARK GETS BACK  
HERE AND DEFEATS YOU...  
I'LL GET BACK TO MY  
LIFE, I'LL HAVE HIS  
BABY, AND WE'LL LIVE  
HAPPILY EVER  
AFTER.

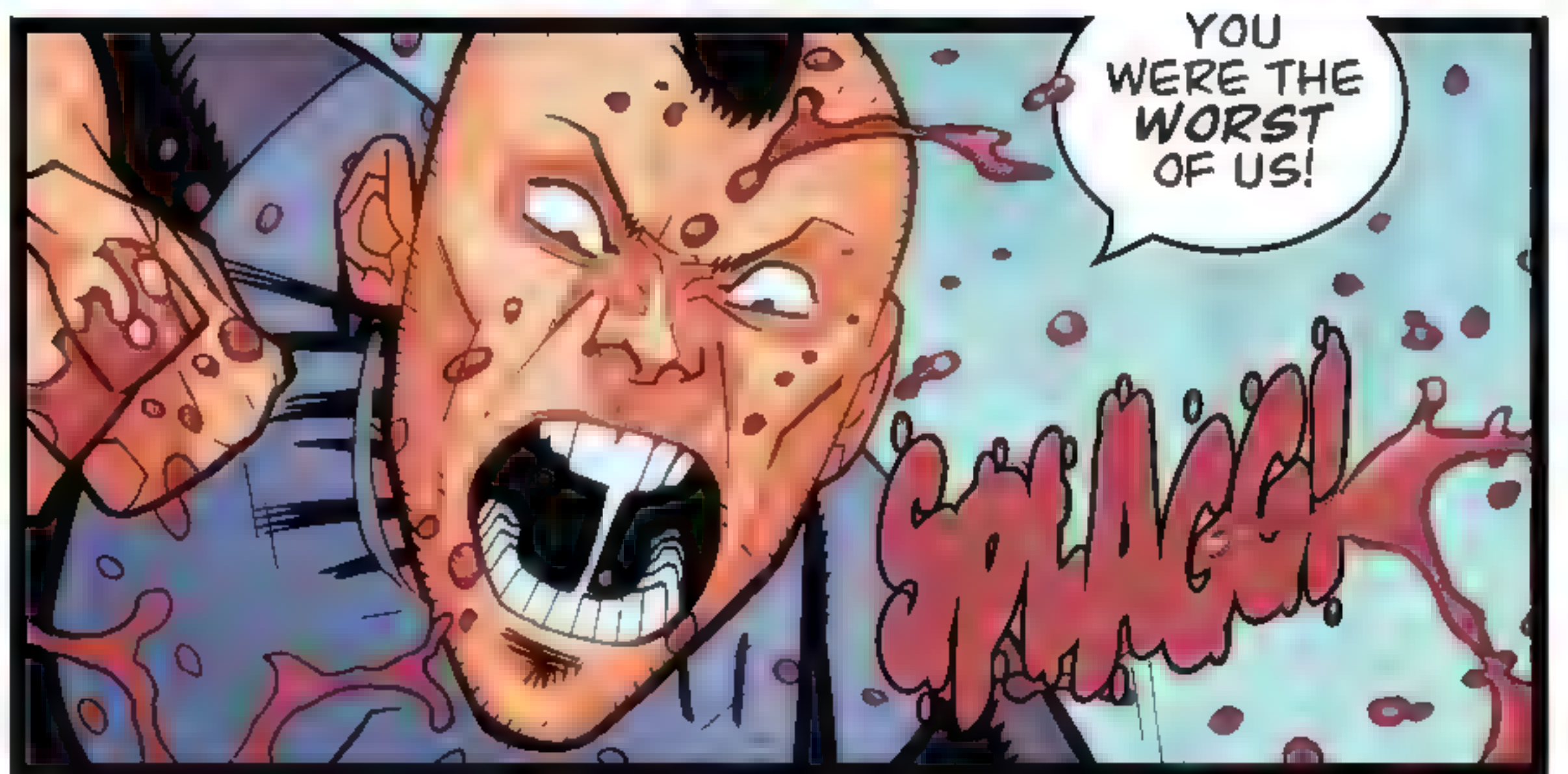
MY REWARD  
FOR NOT  
FOCUSING ON  
REVENGE.

DO YOU EVER  
STOP TO CONSIDER  
WHAT YOU COULD BE  
ACCOMPLISHING IF YOU  
STOPPED BLAMING MARK  
FOR SOMETHING THAT  
WASN'T HIS FAULT, AND  
INSTEAD DECIDED TO  
CARRY ON WITH  
WHATEVER MISSION  
YOU WERE TRYING TO  
DO IN THE FIRST  
PLACE?

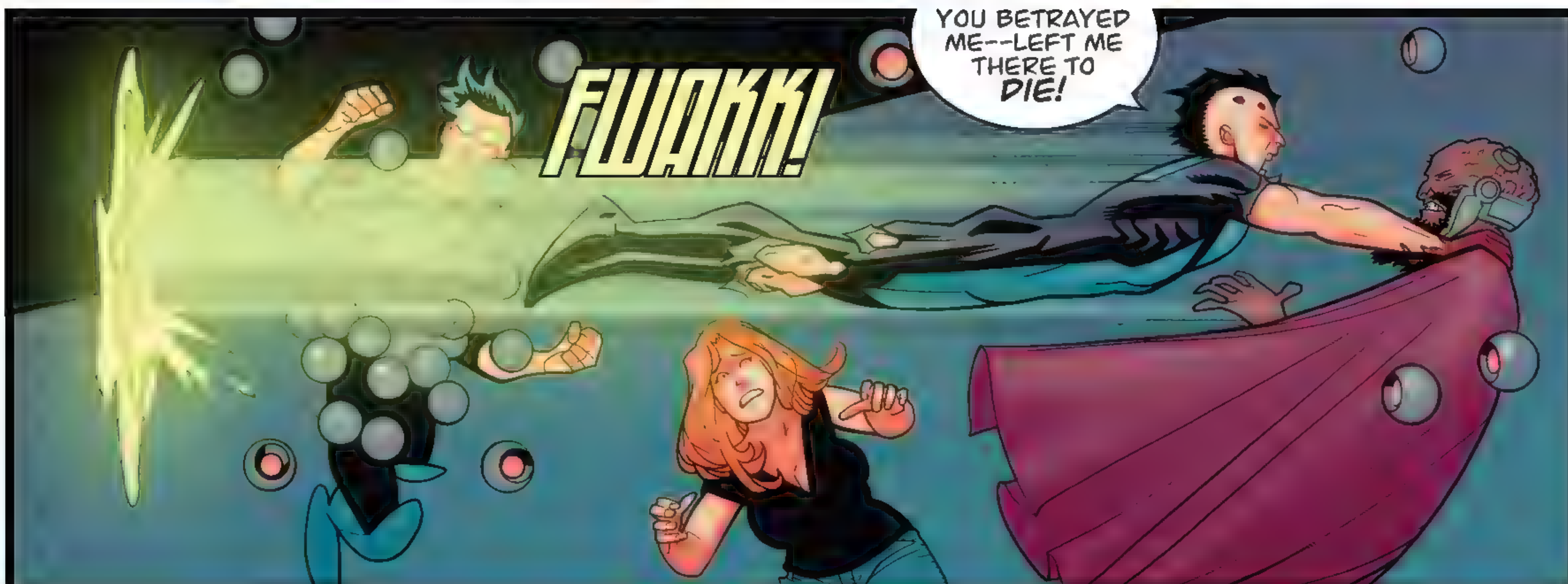
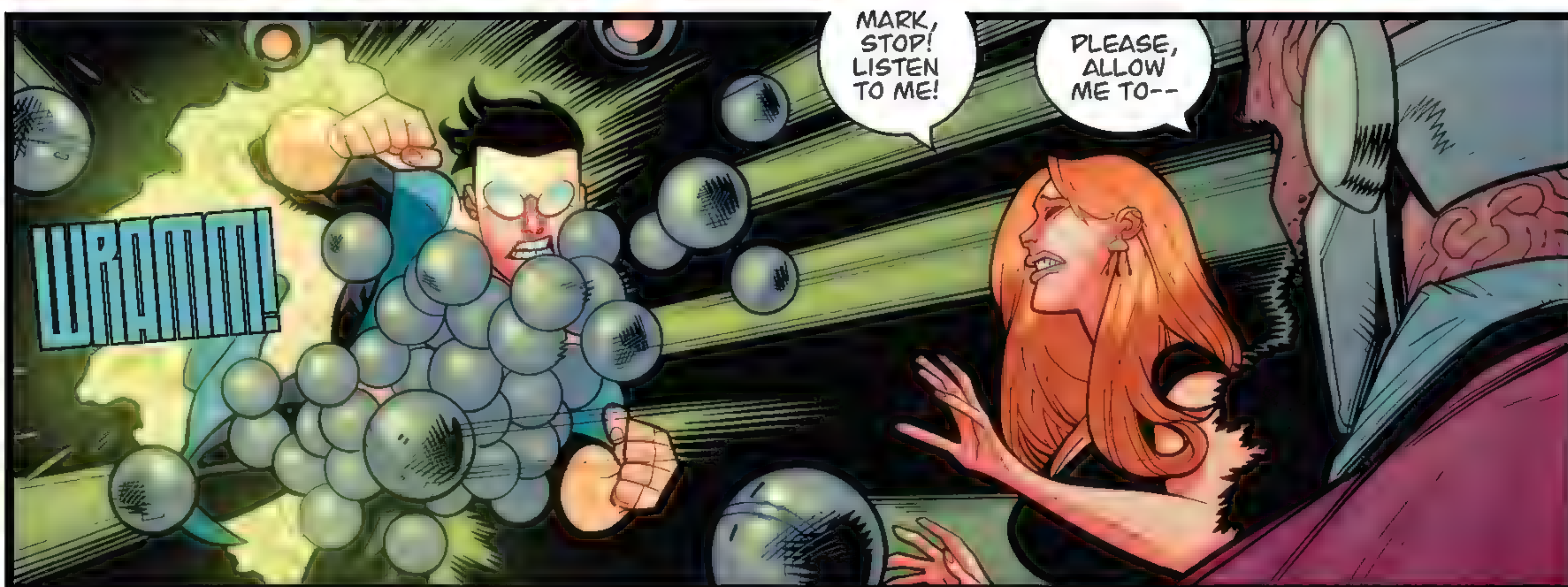
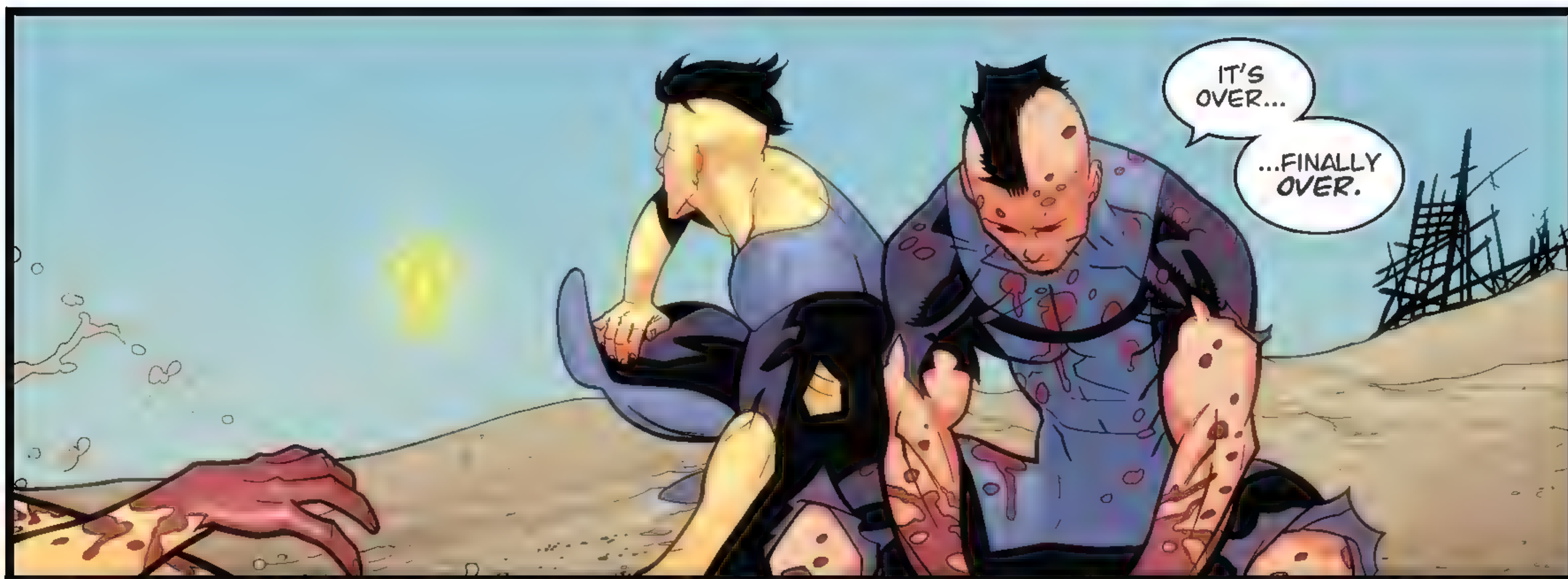


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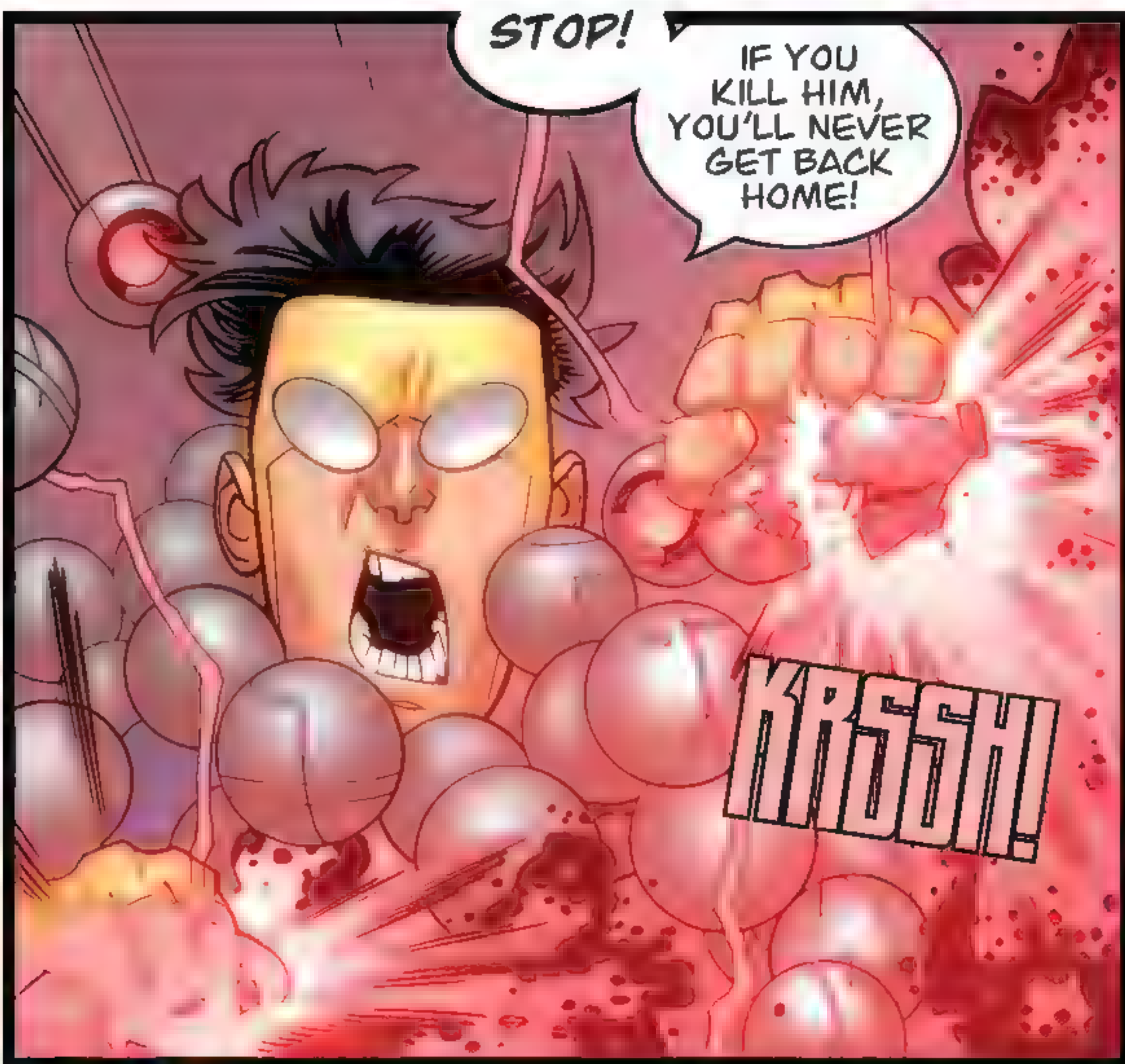








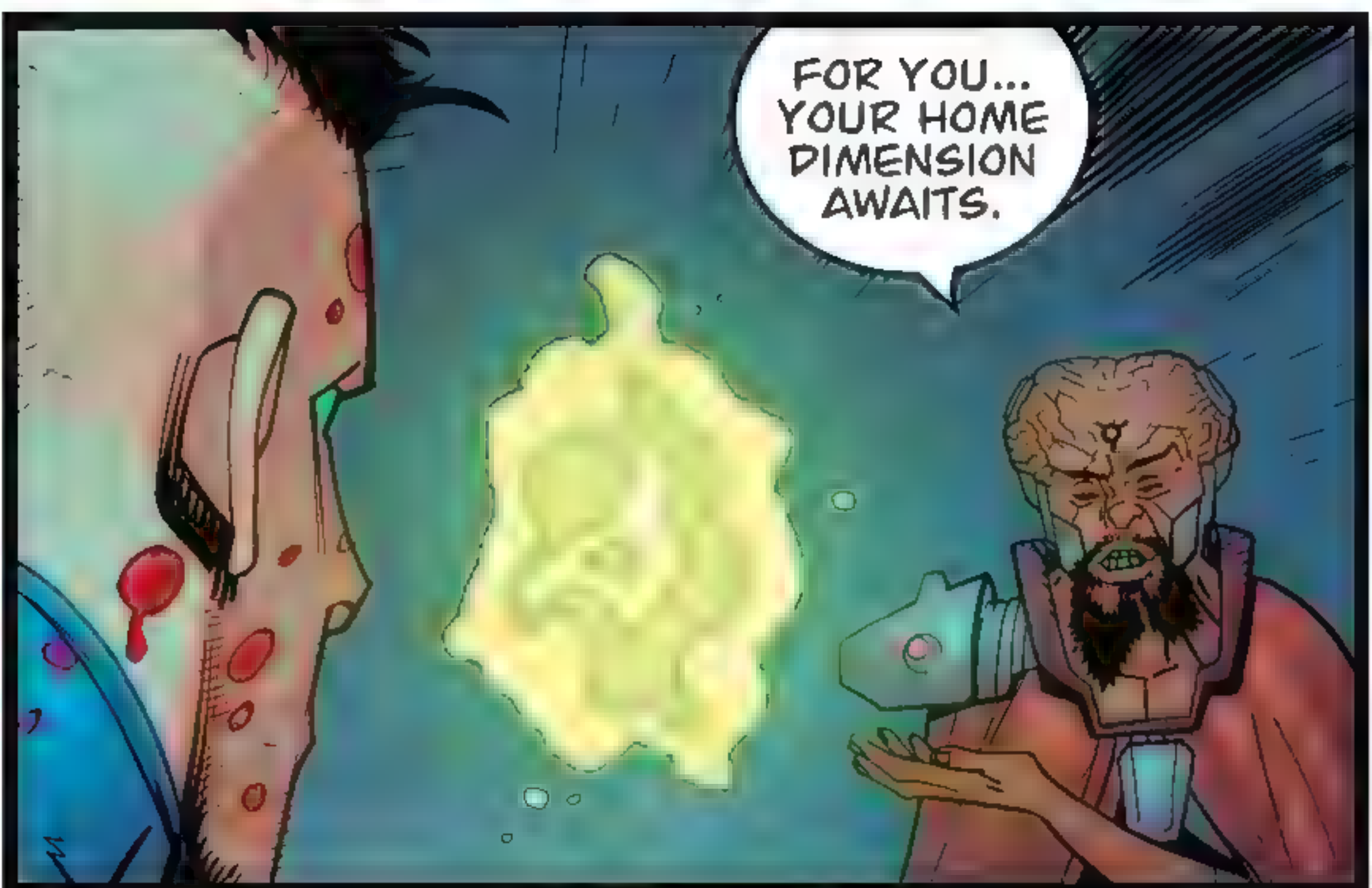




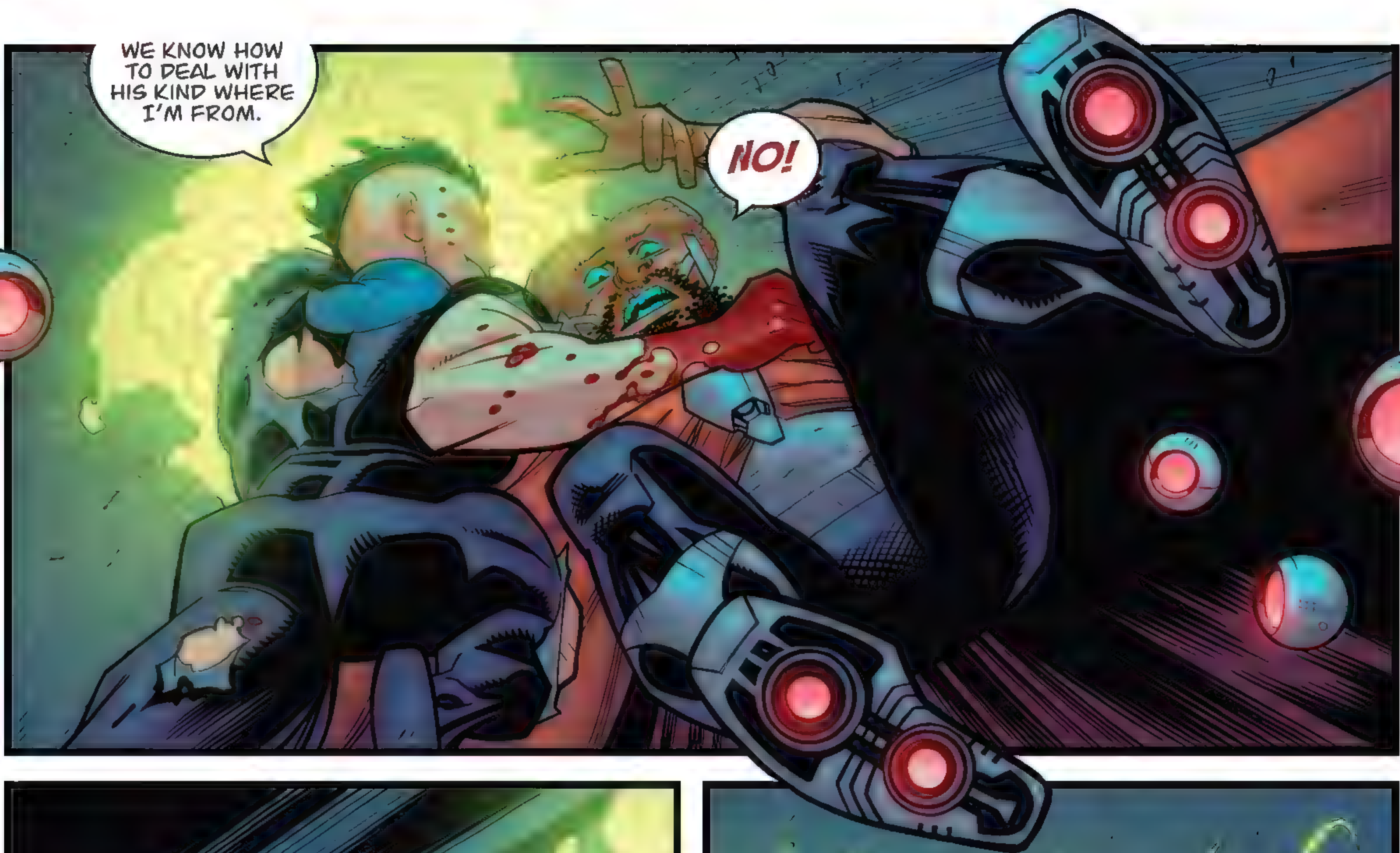




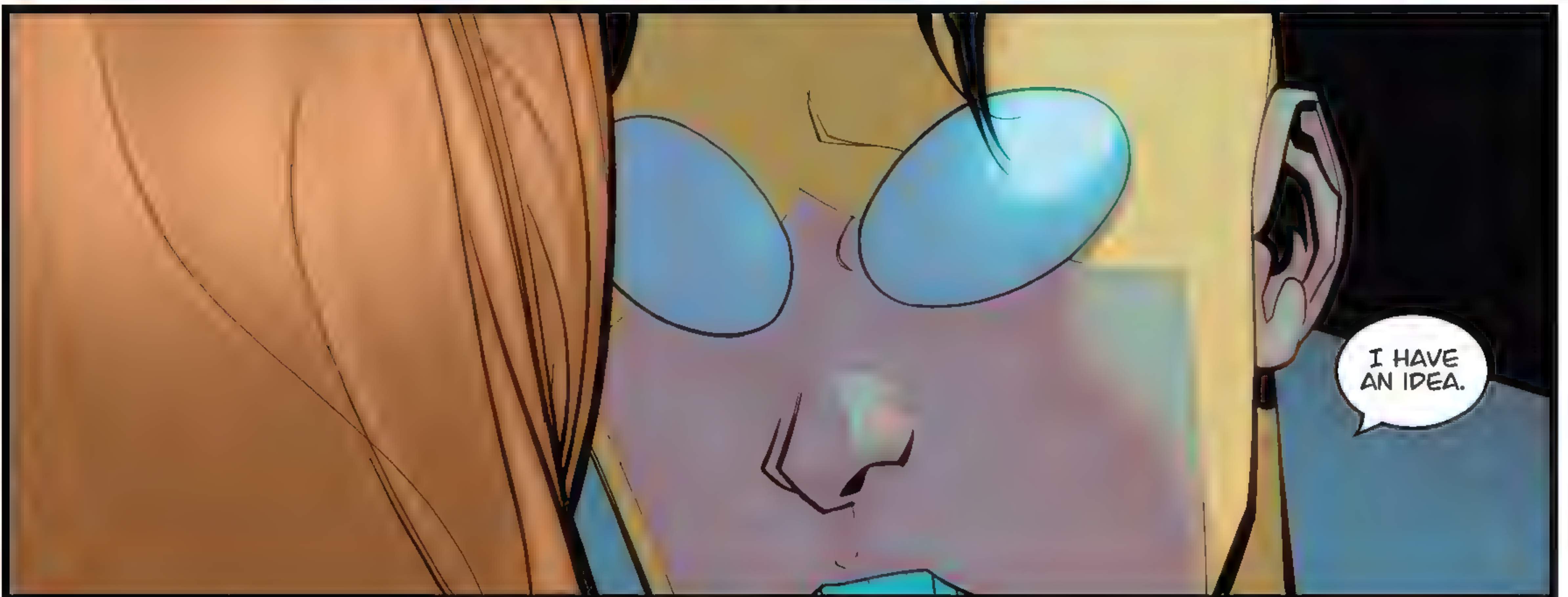
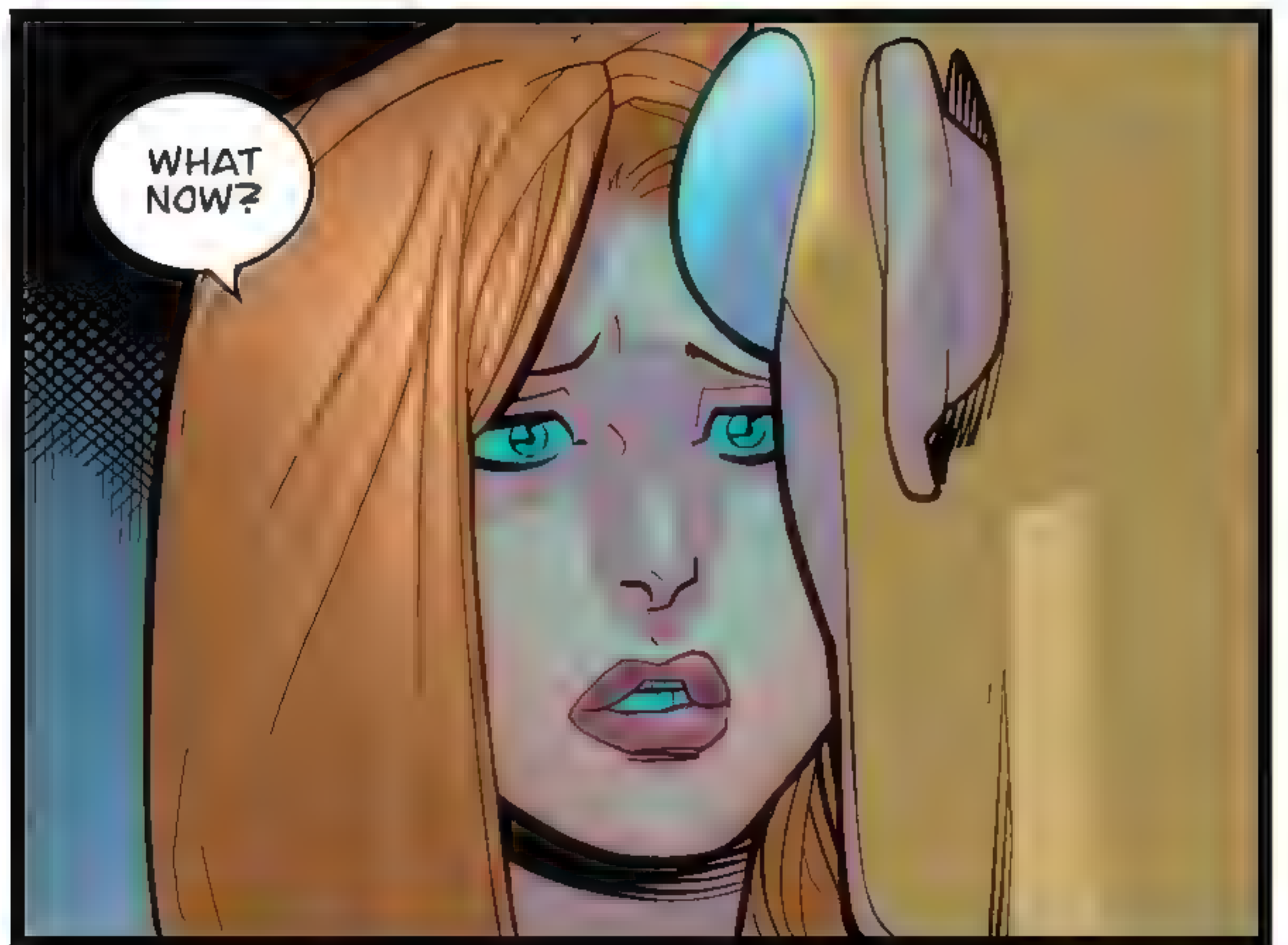




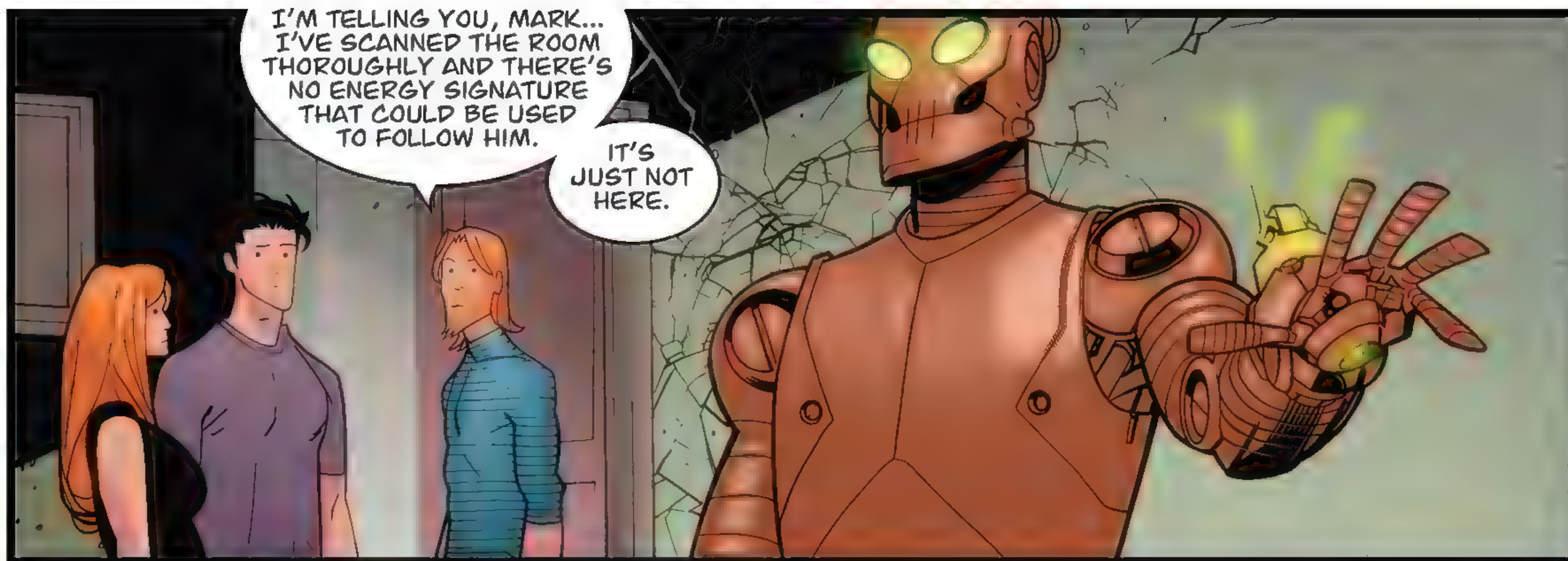






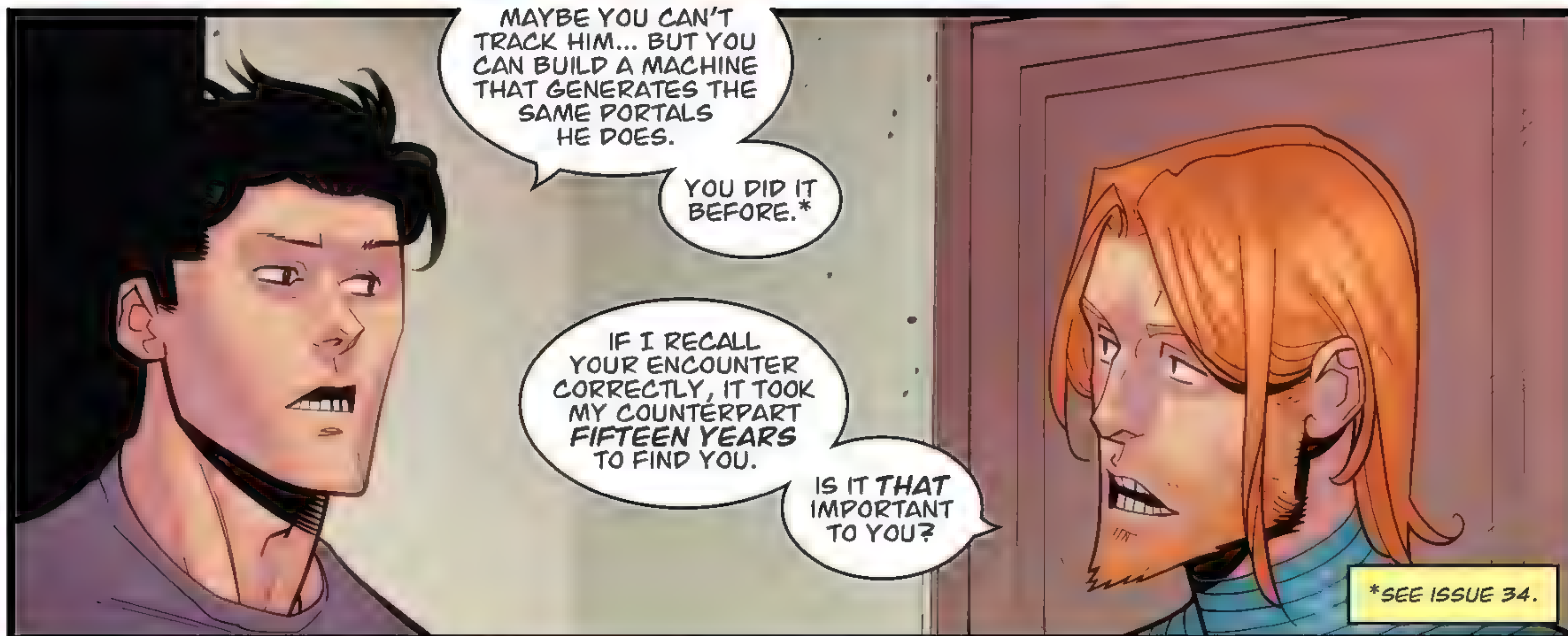






I'M TELLING YOU, MARK...  
I'VE SCANNED THE ROOM  
THOROUGHLY AND THERE'S  
NO ENERGY SIGNATURE  
THAT COULD BE USED  
TO FOLLOW HIM.

IT'S  
JUST NOT  
HERE.



MAYBE YOU CAN'T  
TRACK HIM... BUT YOU  
CAN BUILD A MACHINE  
THAT GENERATES THE  
SAME PORTALS  
HE DOES.

YOU DID IT  
BEFORE.\*

IF I RECALL  
YOUR ENCOUNTER  
CORRECTLY, IT TOOK  
MY COUNTERPART  
FIFTEEN YEARS  
TO FIND YOU.

IS IT THAT  
IMPORTANT  
TO YOU?

\*SEE ISSUE 34.



HE'S  
STILL OUT  
THERE.

I HAVE  
TO FIND  
HIM.



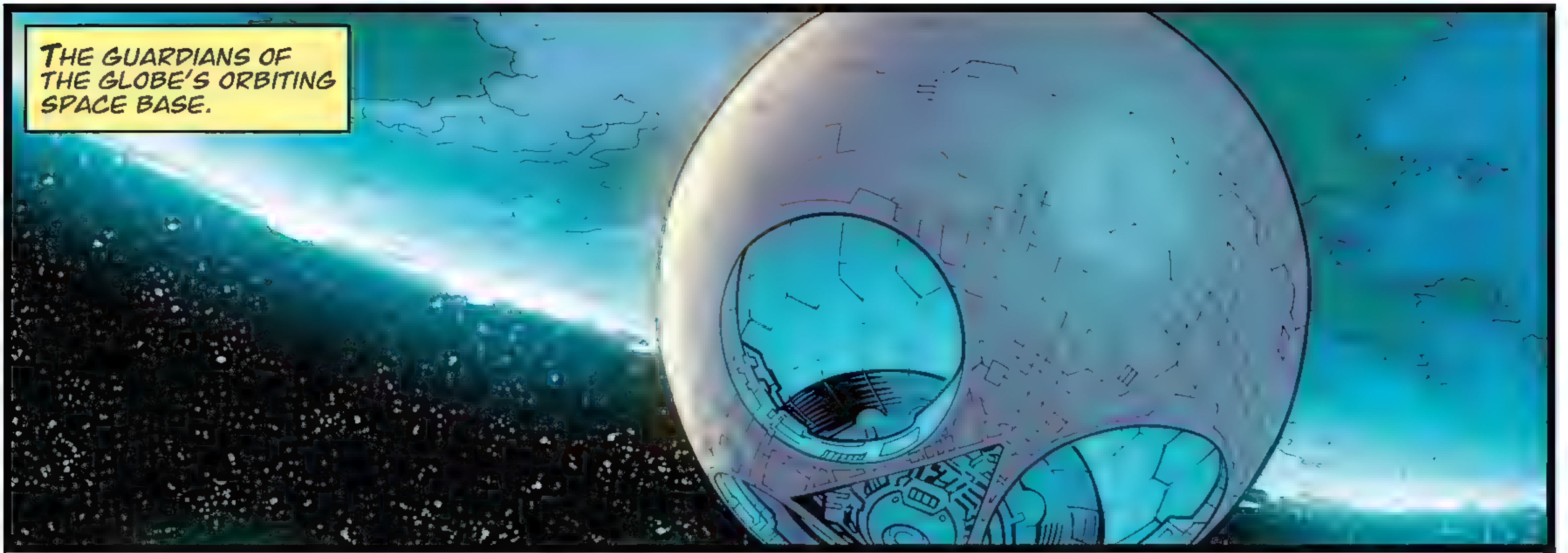




# CHAPTER THREE







THE GUARDIANS OF  
THE GLOBE'S ORBITING  
SPACE BASE.



ACTIONEERS--THAT SHIP WILL BE  
OVER CHICAGO IN SEVEN MINUTES.  
SHUT IT DOWN! POWERPLEX, YOU  
SHOULD BE ABLE TO OVERLOAD  
ITS POWER SYSTEMS.  
GO!

BEST TIGER,  
CONSTRUCT'S ARMOR  
HAS WEAK SPOTS AT  
HER ELBOWS, KNEES  
AND SHOULDERS.  
PUT BULLETS  
THERE!

SAMSON,  
THROW THE  
BOMB TO  
ME--I CAN GET  
FAR ENOUGH  
AWAY THAT THE  
EXPLOSION WON'T  
DAMAGE THE  
POWER  
STATION.

I'LL  
BE READY  
TO LEAVE  
IN TWENTY  
MINUTES,  
AMANDA!

SORRY,  
DIDN'T MEAN  
TO YELL.

YETI--  
DUCK!



ALL I CAN SAY,  
MARK, IS THAT I'M  
DOING MY BEST. I'M  
USING THE FLAXAN  
PORTAL AS A STARTING  
POINT, BUT THERE'S A  
DIFFERENCE BETWEEN  
AN ALTERNATE  
DIMENSION AND A  
PARALLEL  
REALITY.

GREAT JOB,  
POWERPLEX!  
KINETIC, GUIDE  
THE SHIP SAFELY  
TO THE GROUND.  
I'LL HAVE A GDA  
CLEANUP CREW ON  
SITE IN TEN.



DONALD. I NEED A CLEANUP  
CREW TO THE COORDINATES  
I'M SENDING OVER. YEAH.  
SHIP'S DOWN.  
CHICAGO'S  
SAFE.

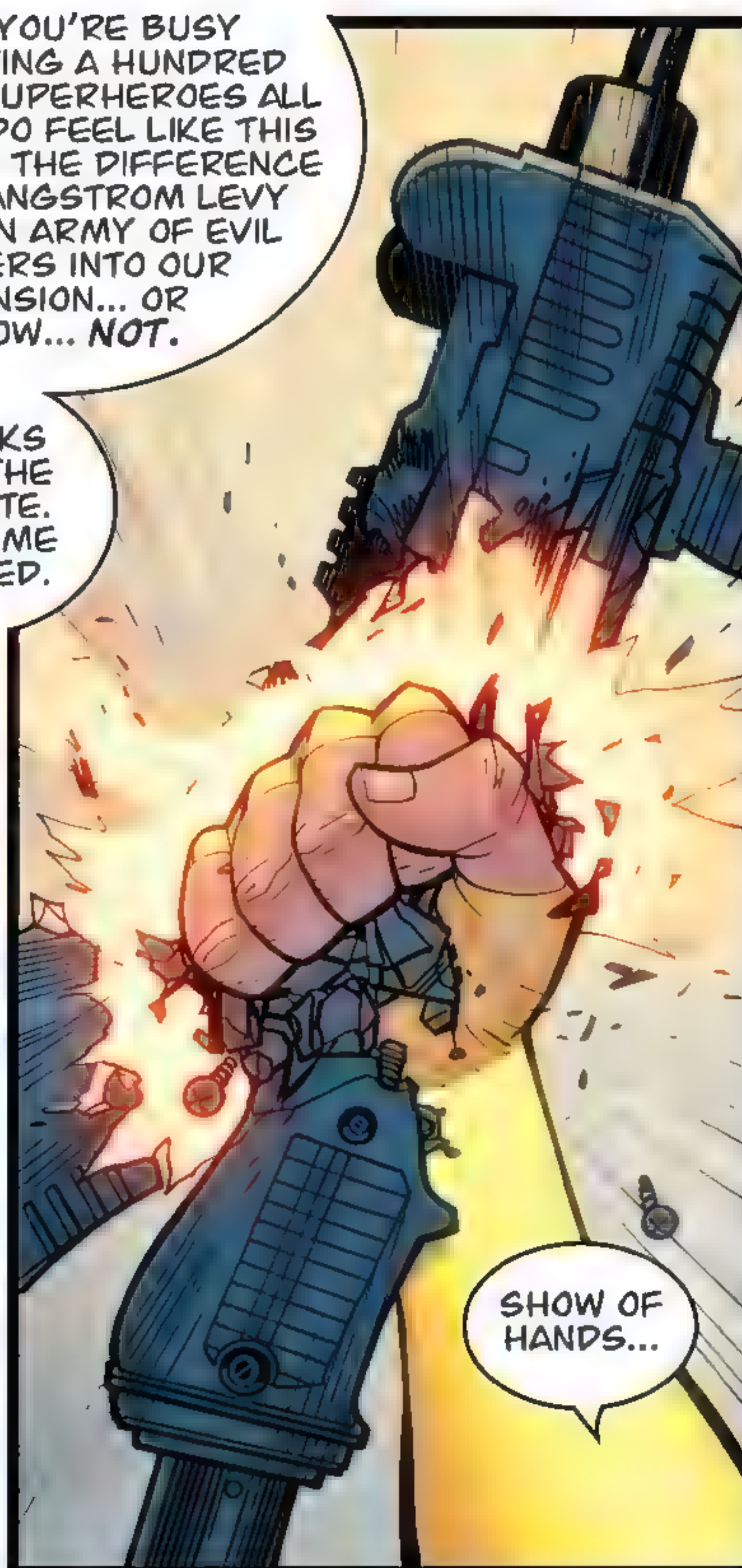
BRIT! COME  
IN. WE'VE GOT A  
ROBBERY ON  
WALL STREET--  
AND IT'S A BUNCH  
OF GORILLAS!  
ASSEMBLE A TEAM  
OF GUARDIANS AND  
MOVE OUT!

INVINCIBLE?  
YOU STILL  
THERE?

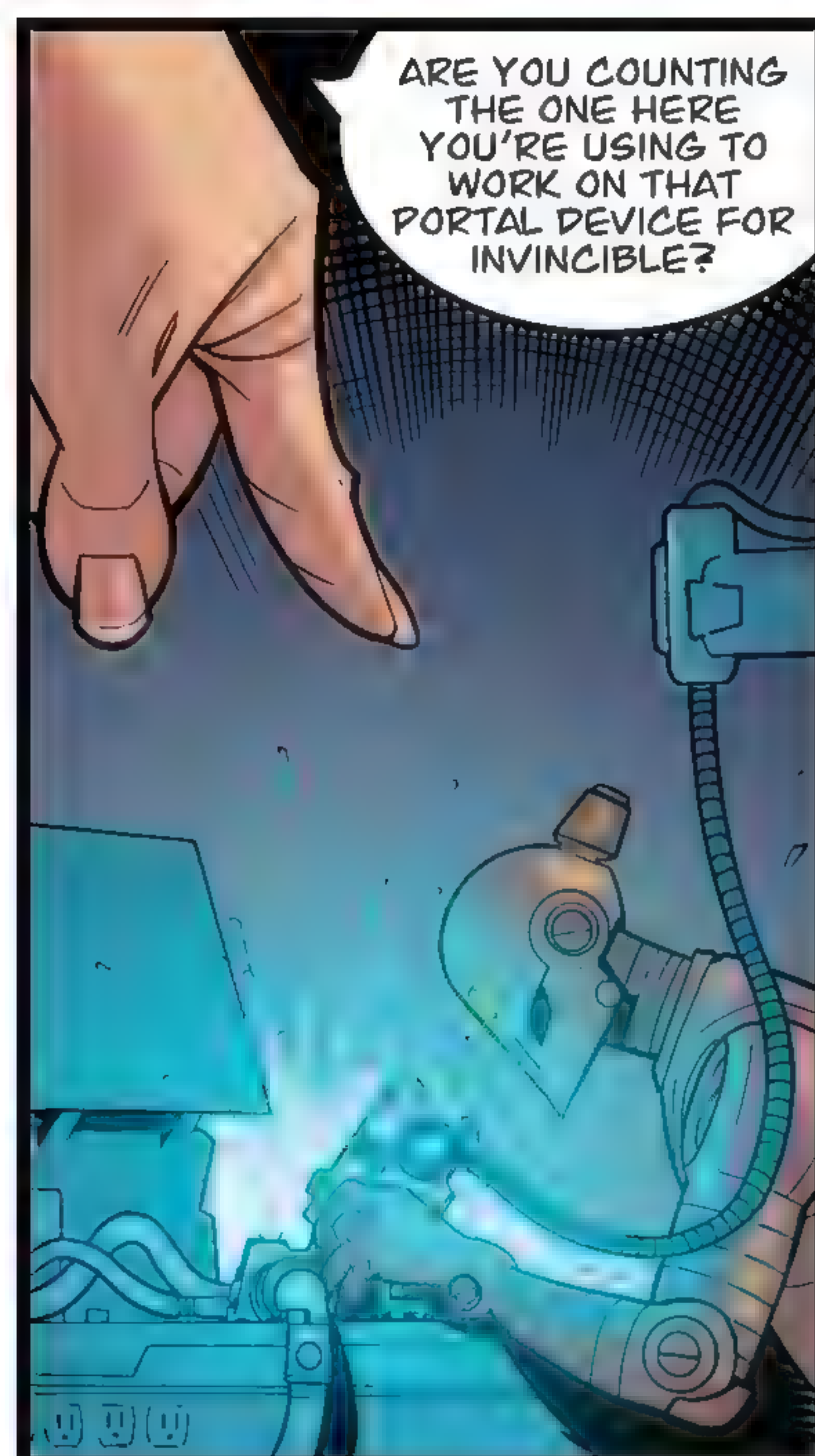
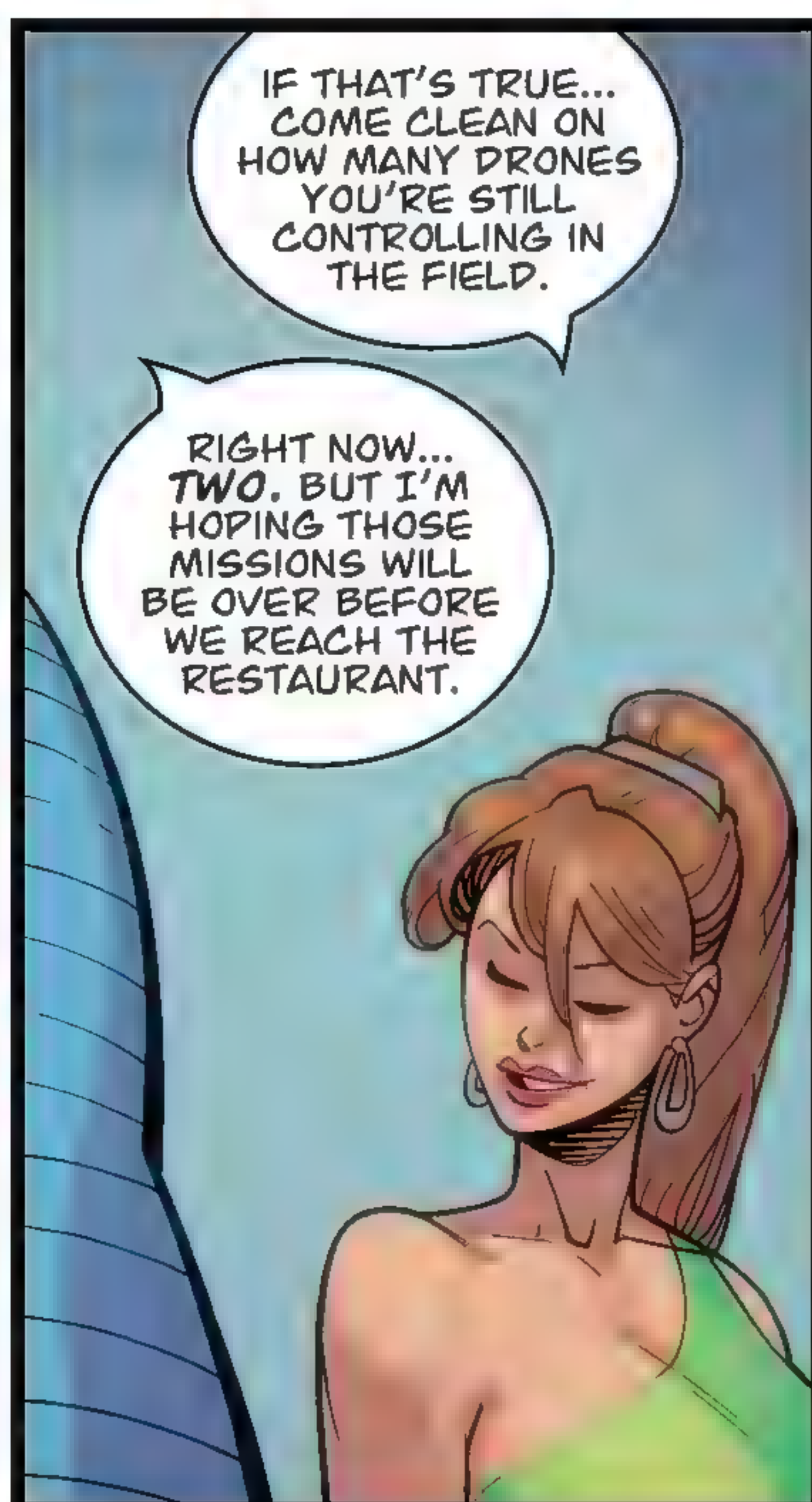
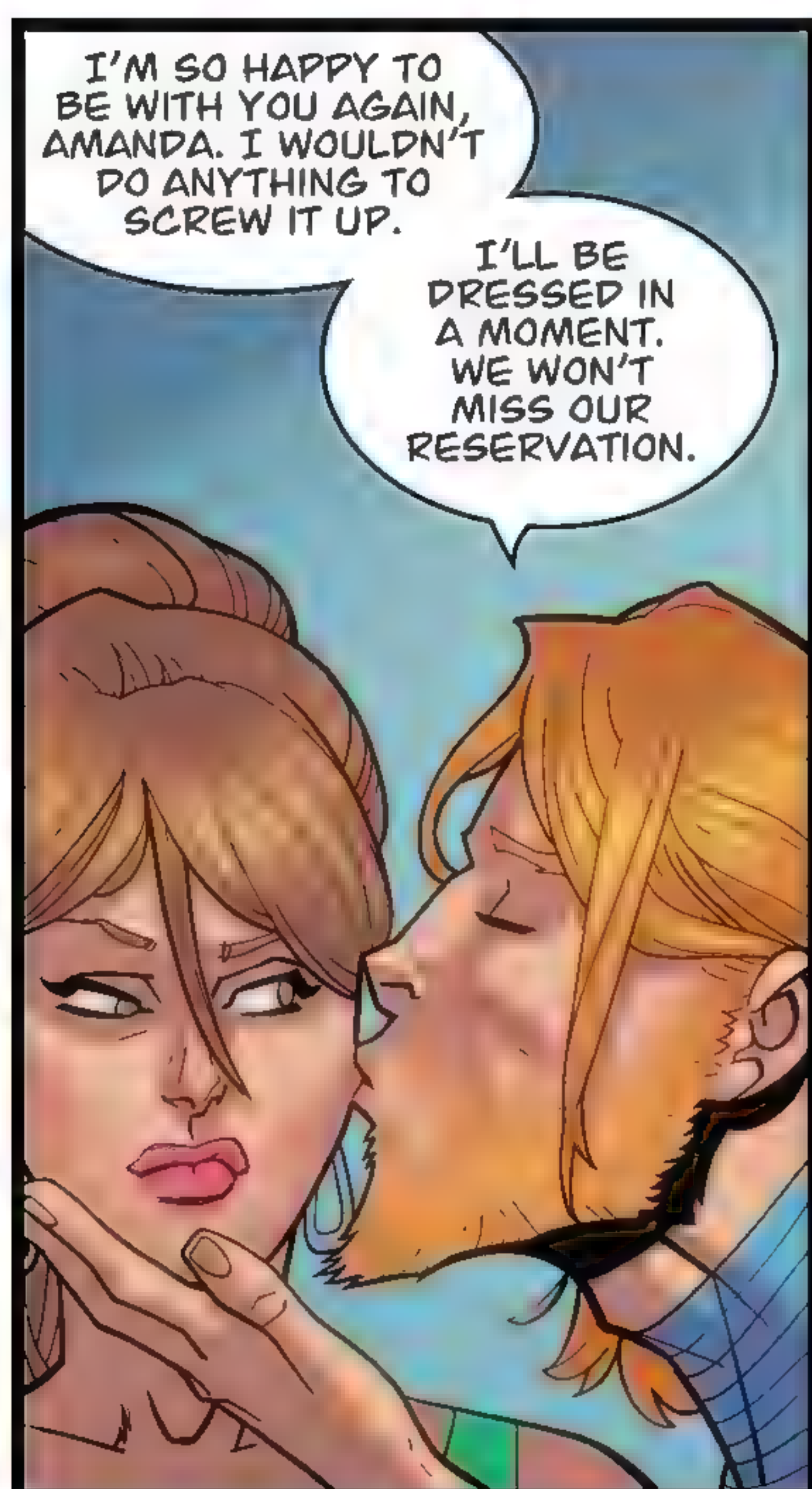
















THE LAST REMAINING  
VILTRUMITE WARSHIP,  
STATIONED ON THE  
MOON.



WE GATHER HERE  
TO BEAR WITNESS TO  
THE FATE OF FORMER  
GRAND REGENT...  
THRAGG.

HE WHO PUT HIS  
GLORY BEFORE  
VILTRUMITE GLORY.  
HE WHO COULD HAVE  
BROUGHT ABOUT THE END  
OF OUR PEOPLE WHEN IT  
WAS HIS SWORN DUTY  
TO ENSURE OUR  
SURVIVAL.



IT IS TIME  
YOU LEARN  
YOUR  
FATE.



HAVE YOU FINALLY  
SUMMONED ENOUGH  
COURAGE TO KILL  
ME, EMPEROR  
NOLAN?



THAT WOULD  
REQUIRE A LACK  
OF COURAGE,  
THRAGG.

THE VILTRUM  
EMPIRE HAS  
CHANGED. I HAVE  
TAKEN IT FROM YOU.  
IT WAS CHANGING  
AROUND YOU...  
AS YOU WERE  
BEGINNING TO  
LOSE IT.

I FEAR  
NOW THAT  
YOU WOULD NOT  
RECOGNIZE  
IT.





WE NOW STAND UNITED,  
DEDICATED TO **PEACE**  
AND **COEXISTENCE**  
WITH ALL MANNER  
OF LIFE IN THIS  
UNIVERSE.

GONE ARE  
THE DAYS OF WAR,  
ENSLAVEMENT  
AND CONQUEST.

TO PUNISH  
YOU AS YOU SEE  
NECESSARY  
WOULD JUST BE  
A RETURN TO  
THOSE DAYS.



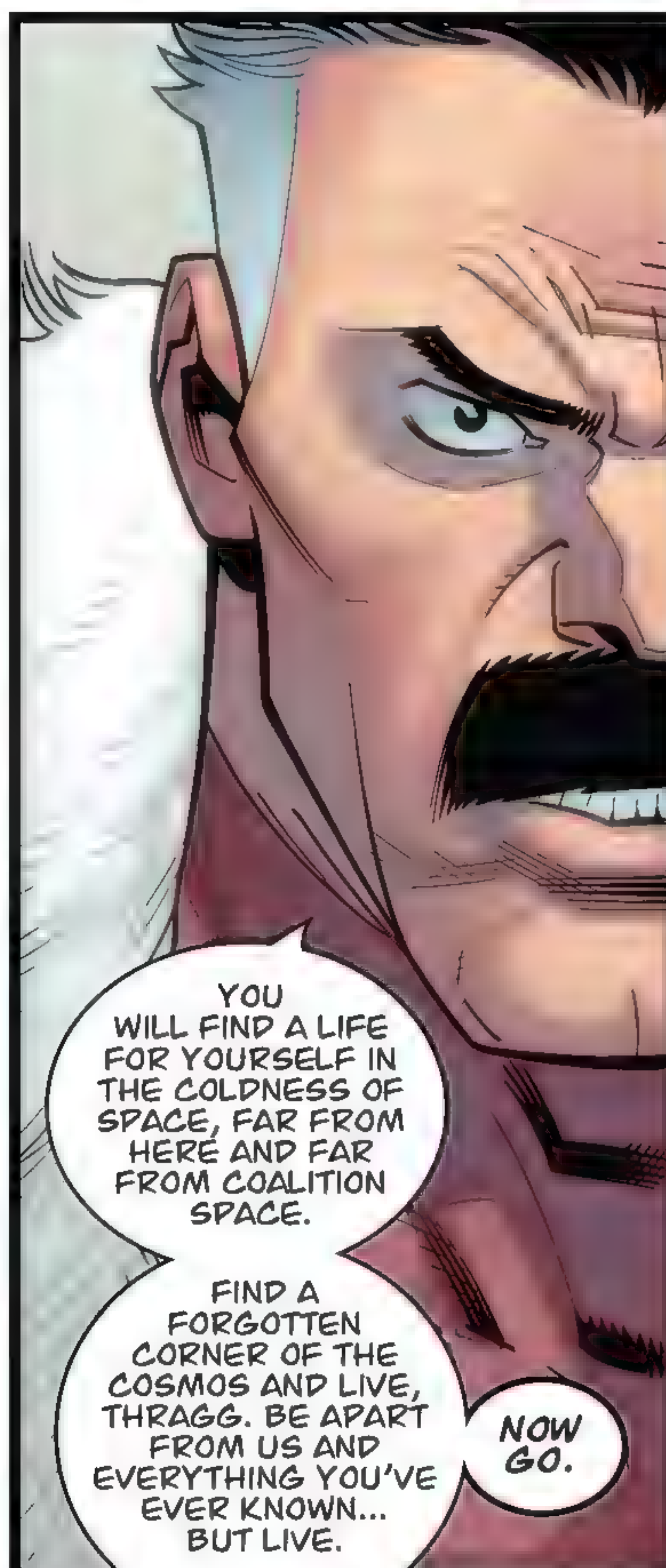
WHAT?

KLIK  
KLIK.



I WISH FOR YOU TO SEE OUR  
PEOPLE **THRIVE** UNDER MY RULE.  
I WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT YOUR  
WAY WAS WRONG... I WANT YOU TO  
WITNESS OUR RESURGENCE... A  
RETURN TO WHAT WE ONCE WERE...  
BEFORE THE FALL OF ARGALL,  
BEFORE THE SCOURGE VIRUS,  
BEFORE THE  
VILTRUMITE WAR.

FOR YOU  
I CHOOSE  
EXILE.



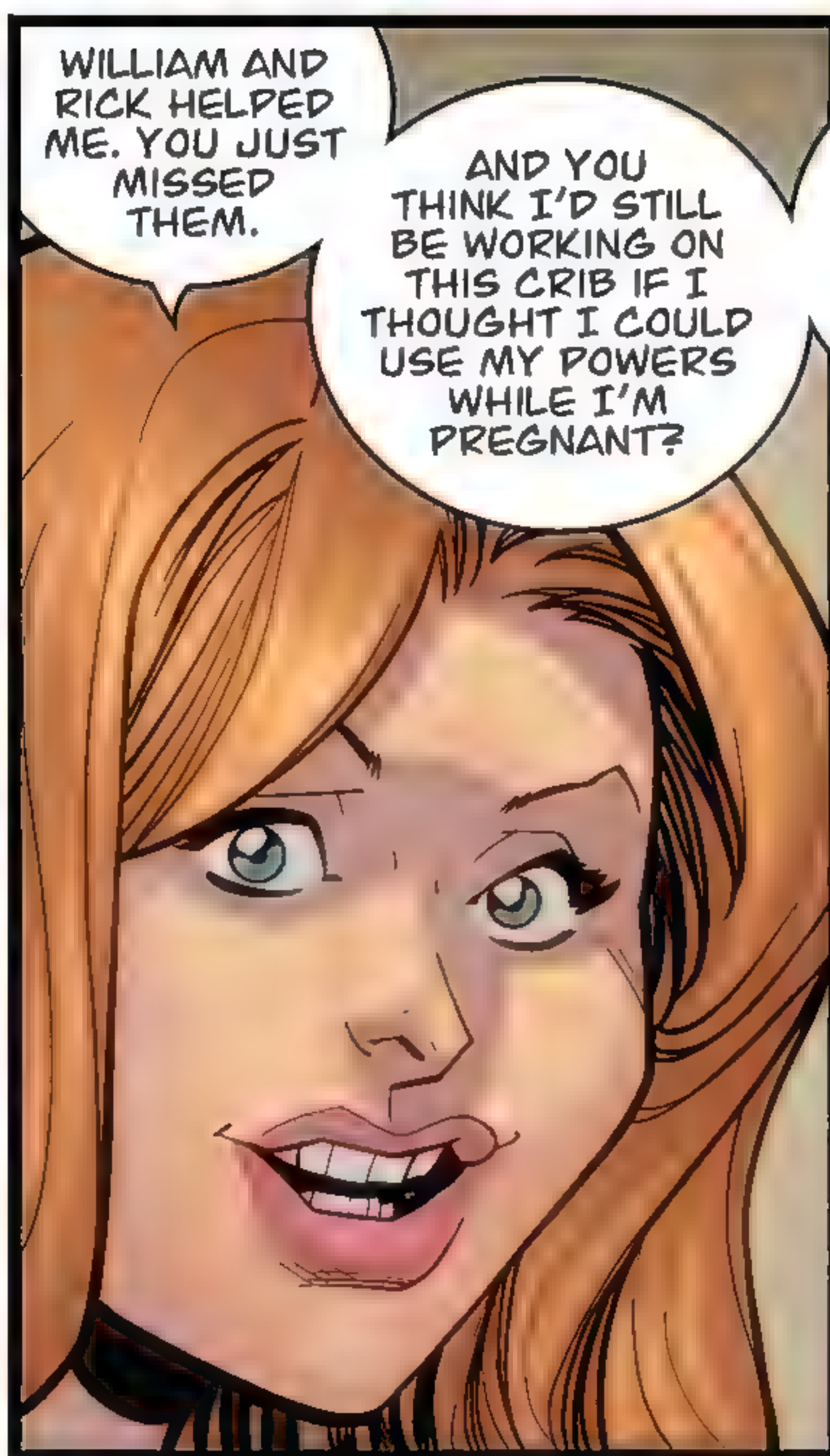
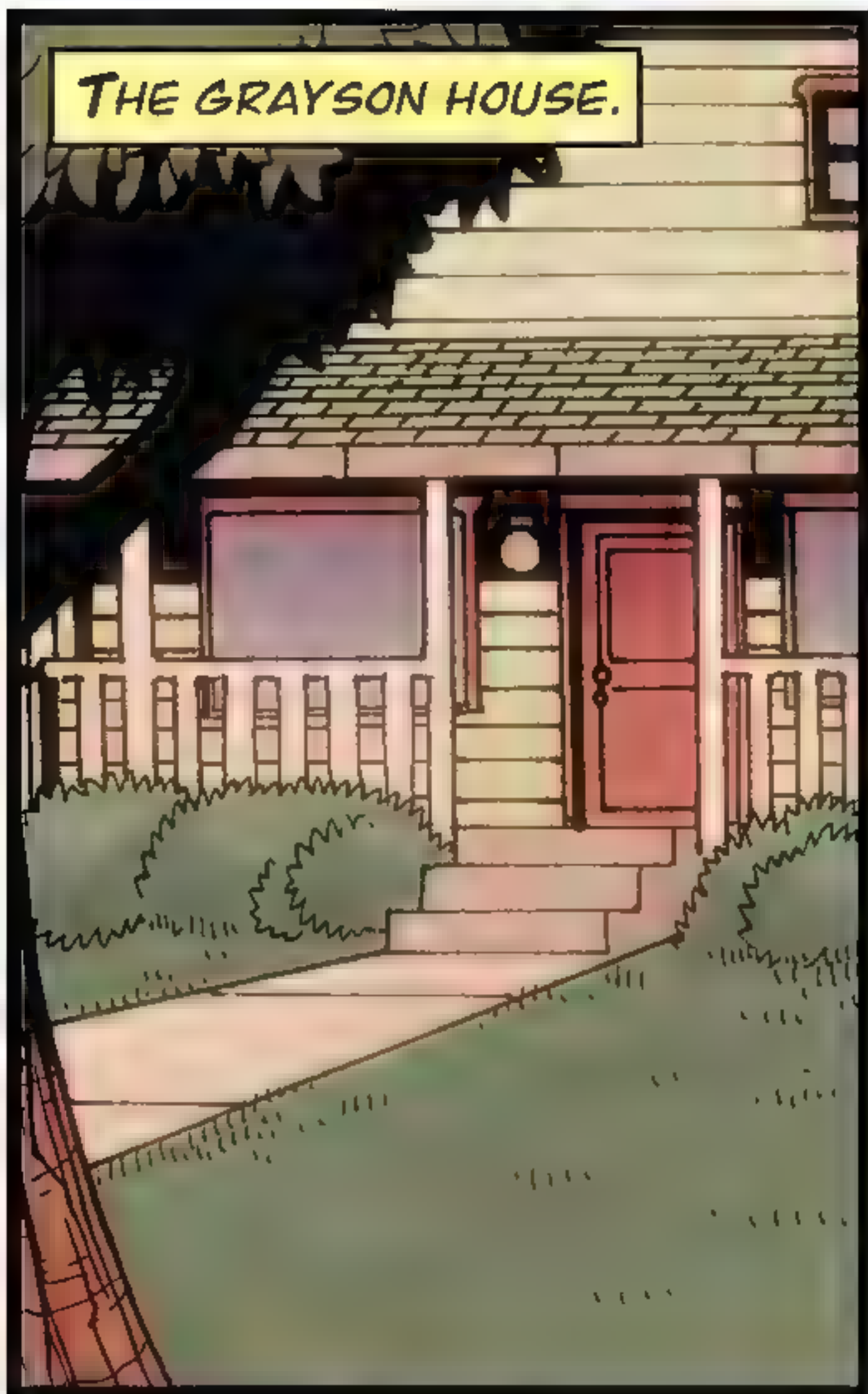
YOU  
WILL FIND A LIFE  
FOR YOURSELF IN  
THE COLDNESS OF  
SPACE, FAR FROM  
HERE AND FAR  
FROM COALITION  
SPACE.

FIND A  
FORGOTTEN  
CORNER OF THE  
COSMOS AND LIVE,  
THRAGG. BE APART  
FROM US AND  
EVERYTHING YOU'VE  
EVER KNOWN...  
BUT LIVE.

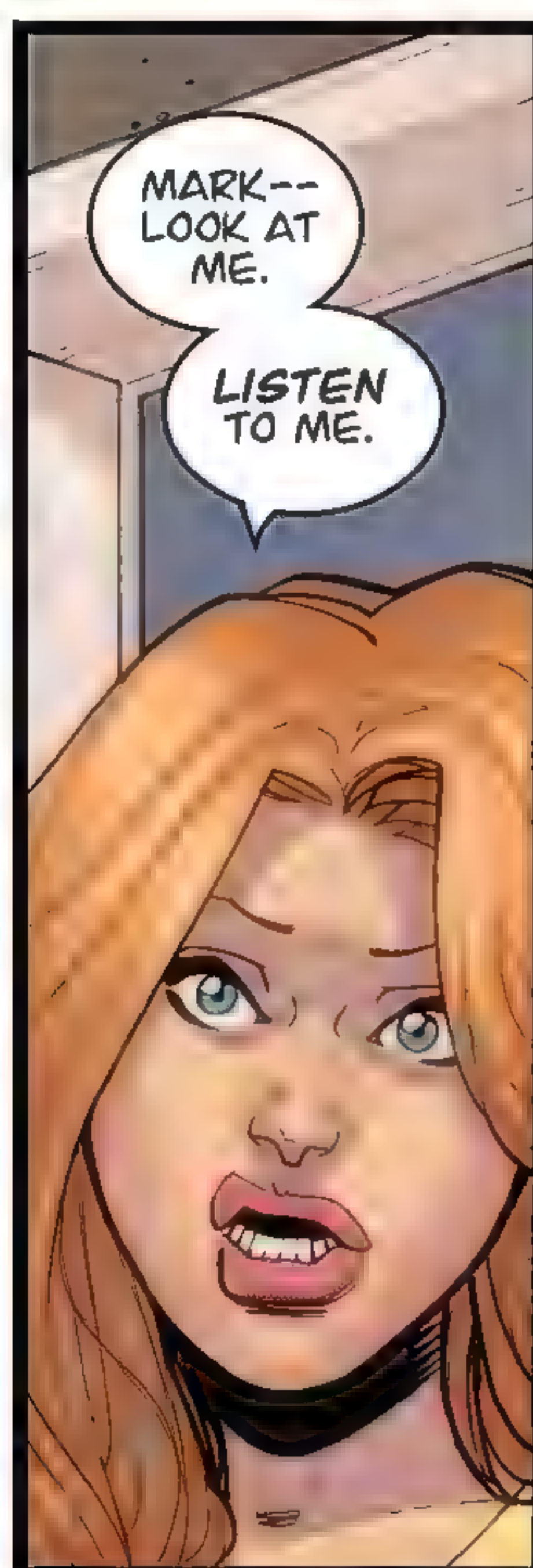
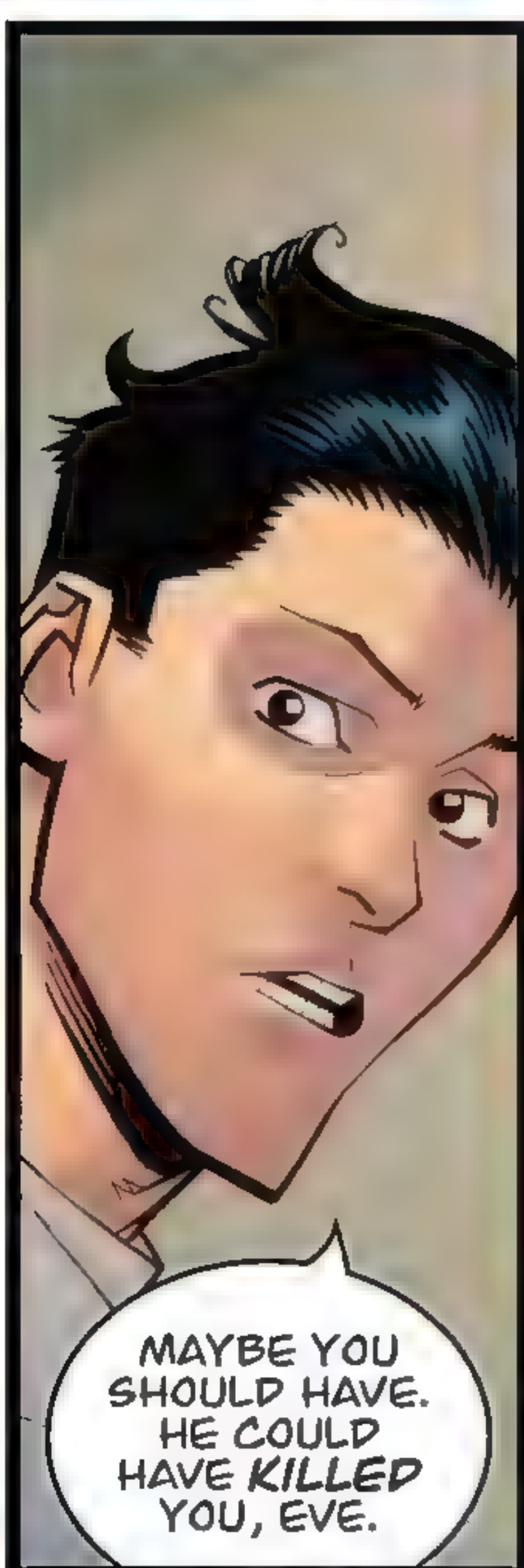
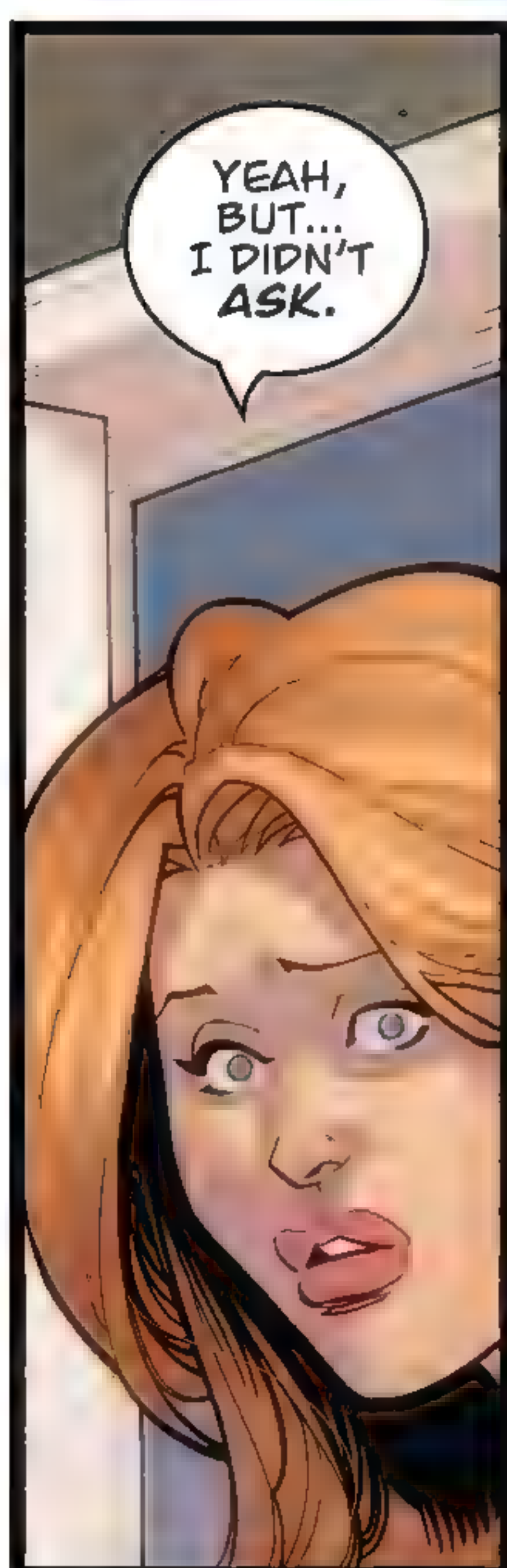
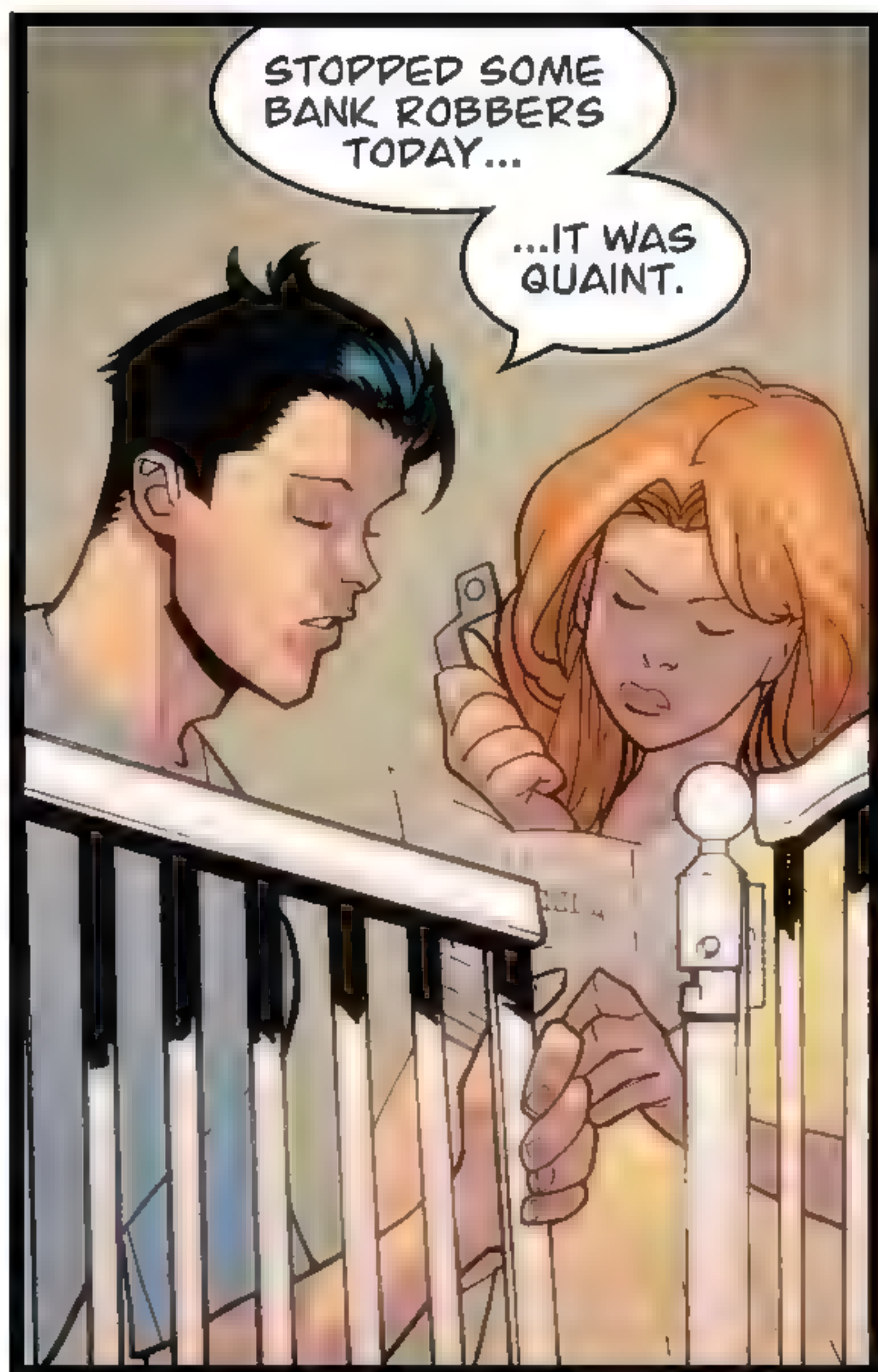
NOW  
GO.



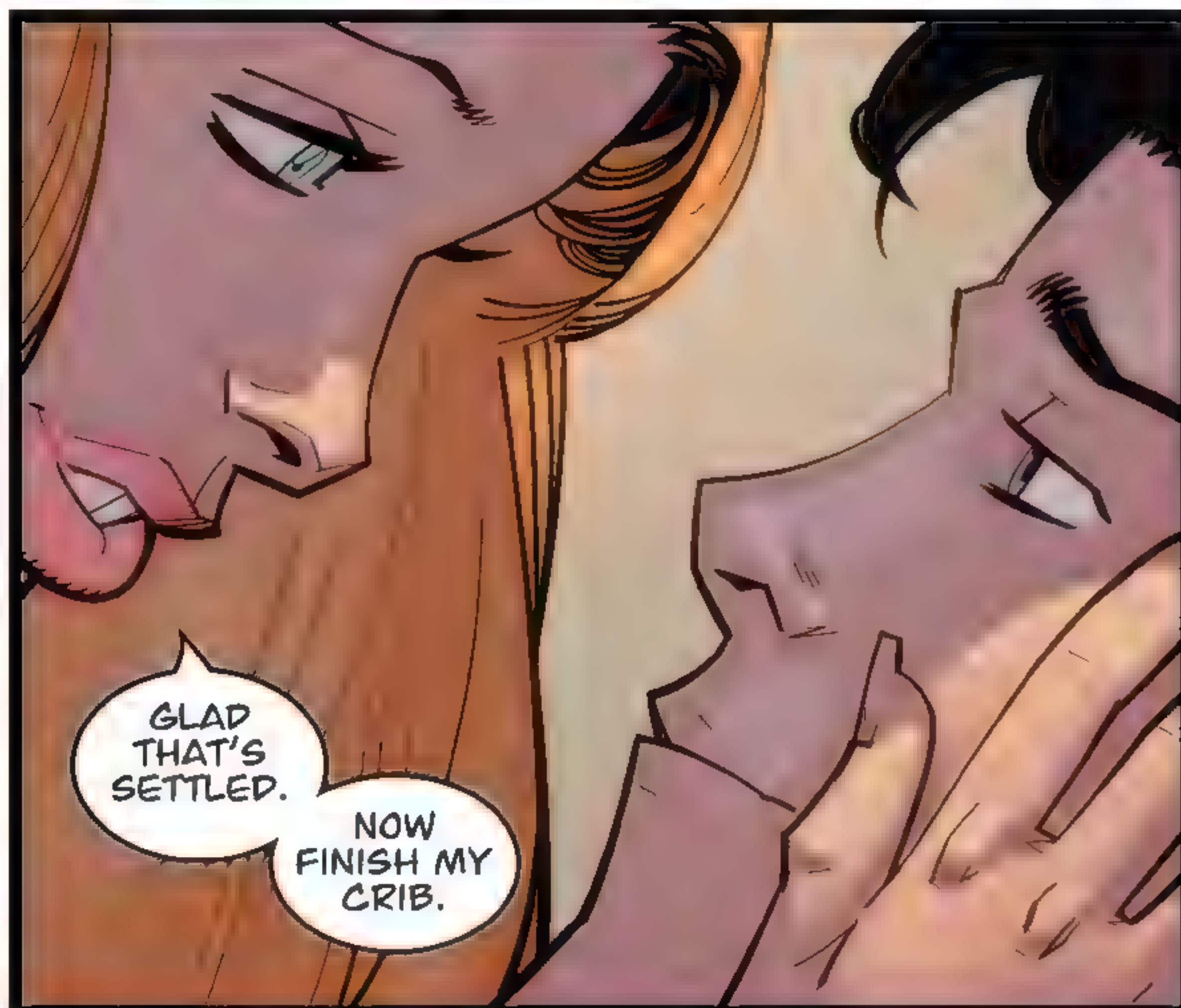
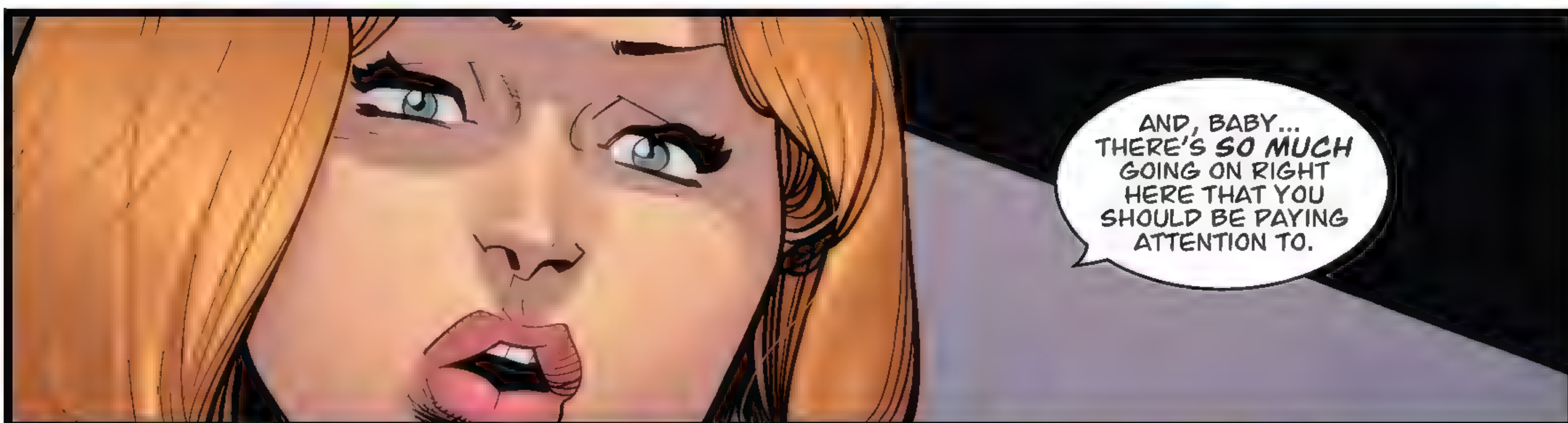




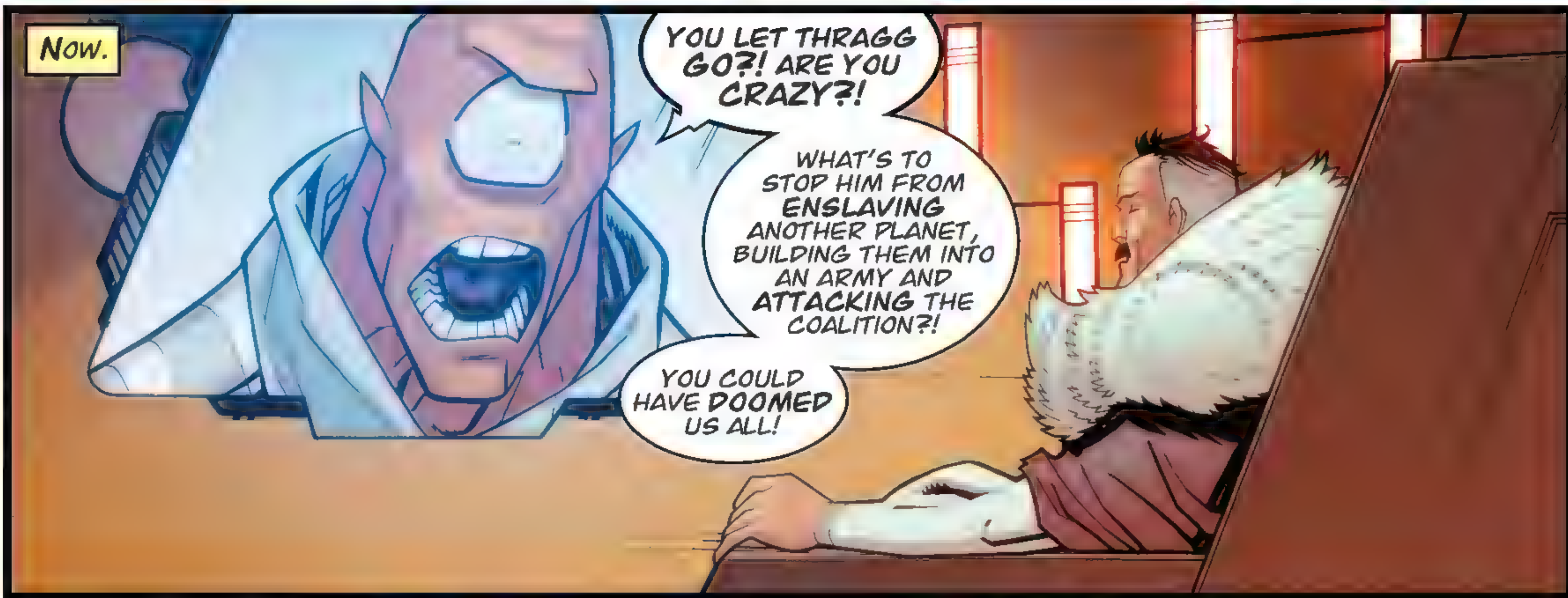
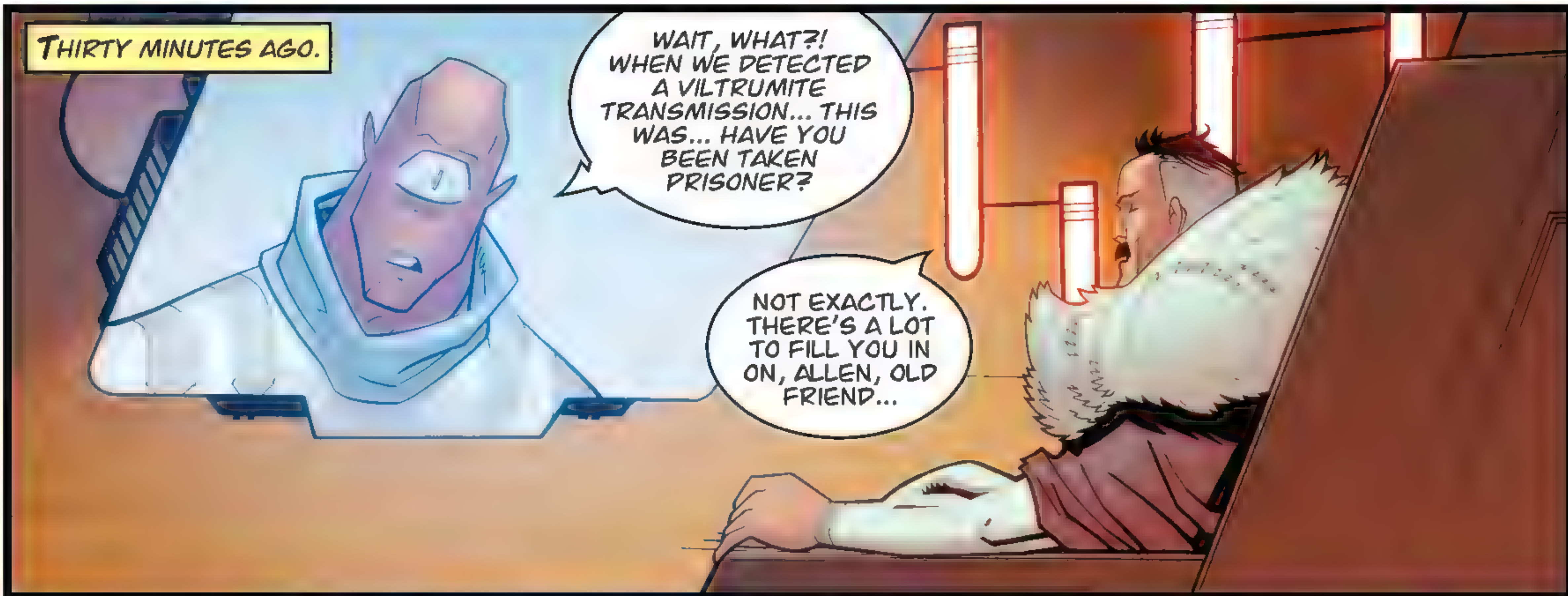
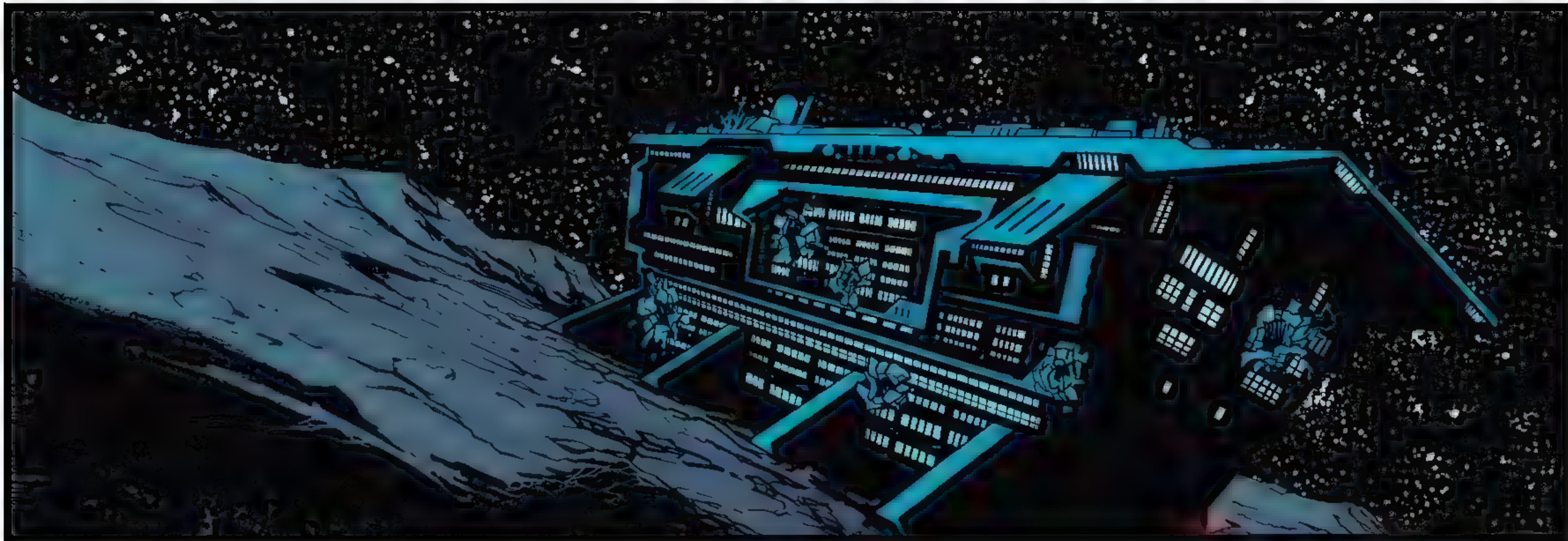












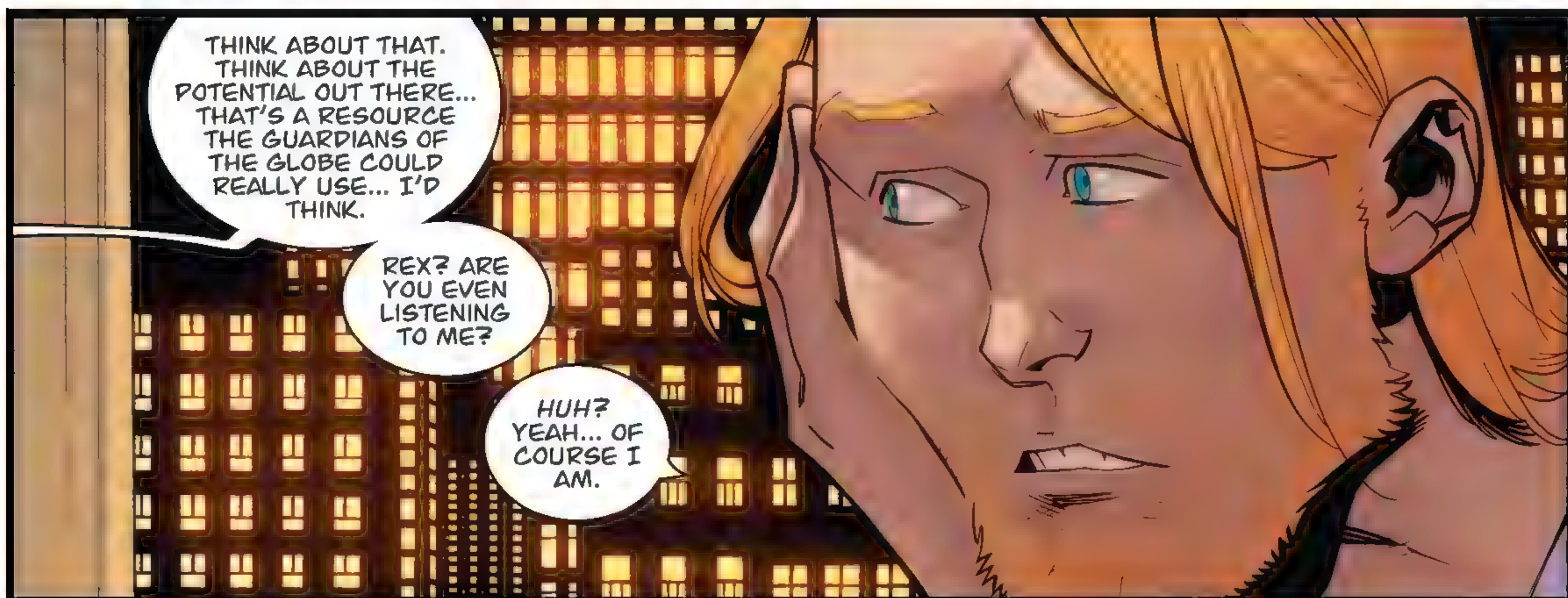




DON'T YOU THINK IT'S A LITTLE ODD? WE'RE FIFTY-PERCENT OF THE POPULATION... AND YET THERE ARE SO FEW FEMALE SUPERHEROES.

HOW DOES THAT HAPPEN?

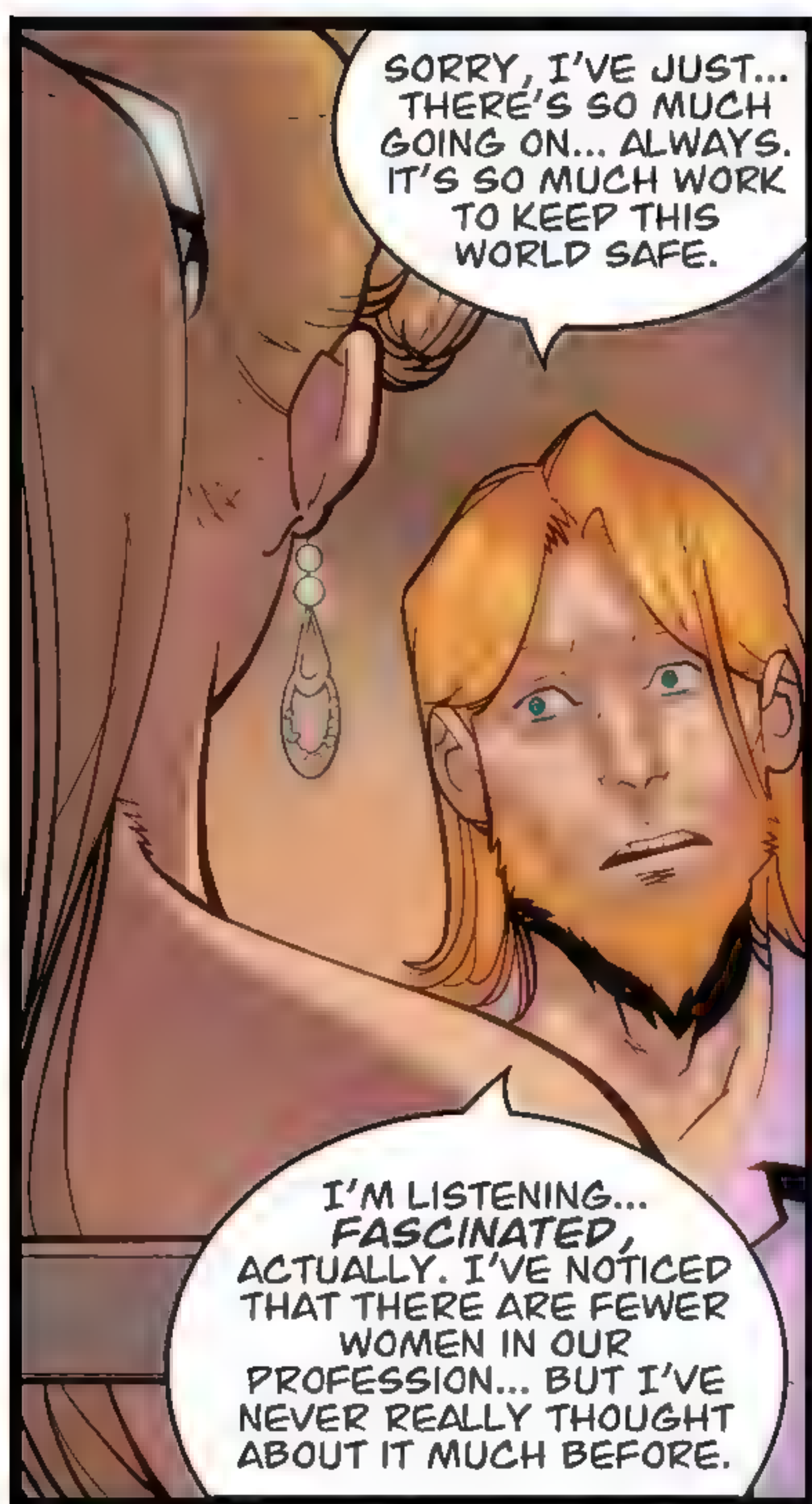
WHATEVER GIVES PEOPLE POWERS... THE HUNDREDS OF DIFFERENT WAYS IT HAPPENS... IS IT REALLY AFFECTING MORE MEN THAN WOMEN? OR ARE THERE WOMEN OUT THERE... POWERFUL WOMEN, WE JUST HAVEN'T FOUND YET?



THINK ABOUT THAT. THINK ABOUT THE POTENTIAL OUT THERE... THAT'S A RESOURCE THE GUARDIANS OF THE GLOBE COULD REALLY USE... I'D THINK.

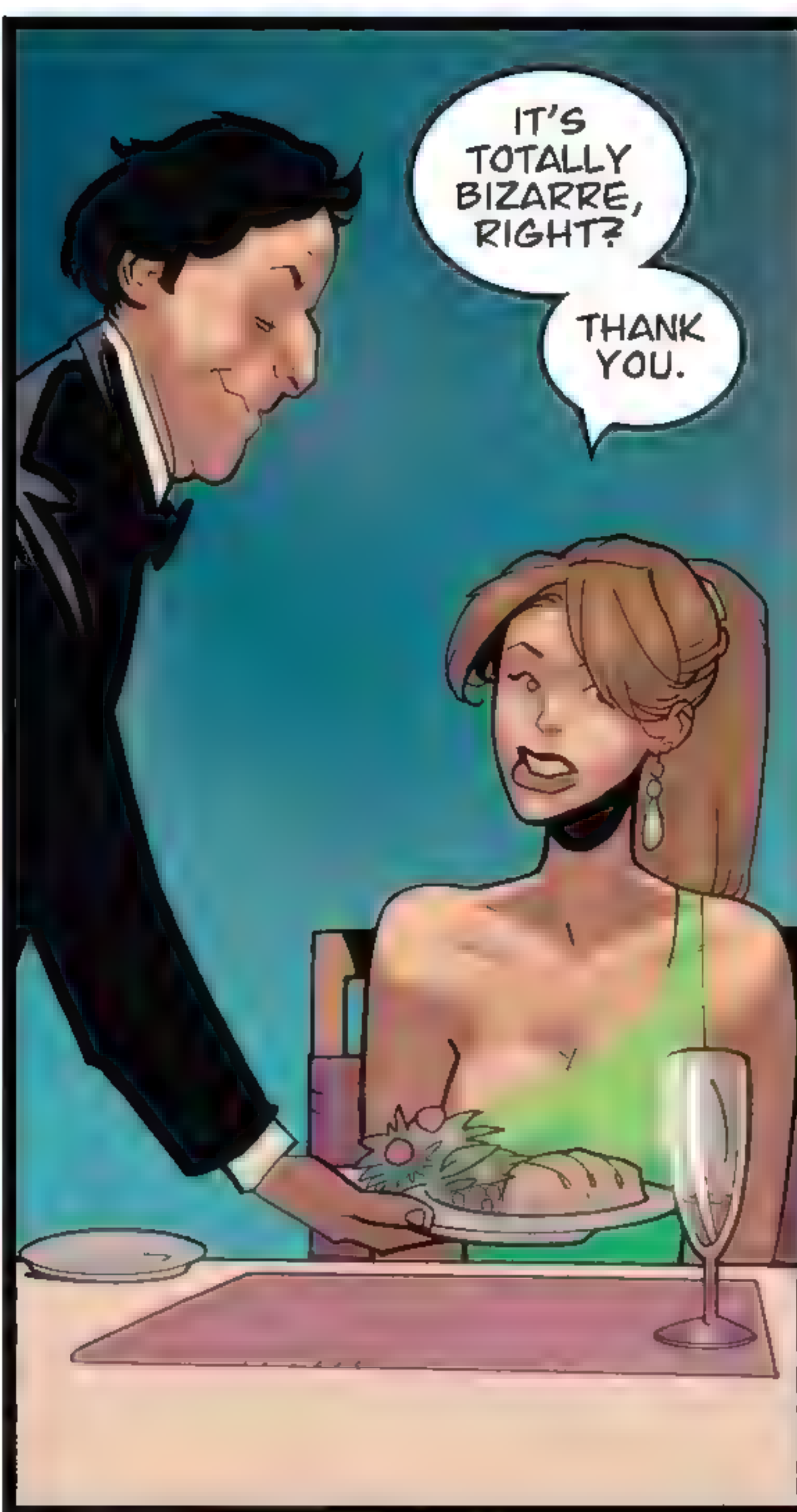
REX? ARE YOU EVEN LISTENING TO ME?

HUH? YEAH... OF COURSE I AM.



SORRY, I'VE JUST... THERE'S SO MUCH GOING ON... ALWAYS. IT'S SO MUCH WORK TO KEEP THIS WORLD SAFE.

I'M LISTENING... **FASCINATED**, ACTUALLY. I'VE NOTICED THAT THERE ARE FEWER WOMEN IN OUR PROFESSION... BUT I'VE NEVER REALLY THOUGHT ABOUT IT MUCH BEFORE.



IT'S TOTALLY BIZARRE, RIGHT?

THANK YOU.

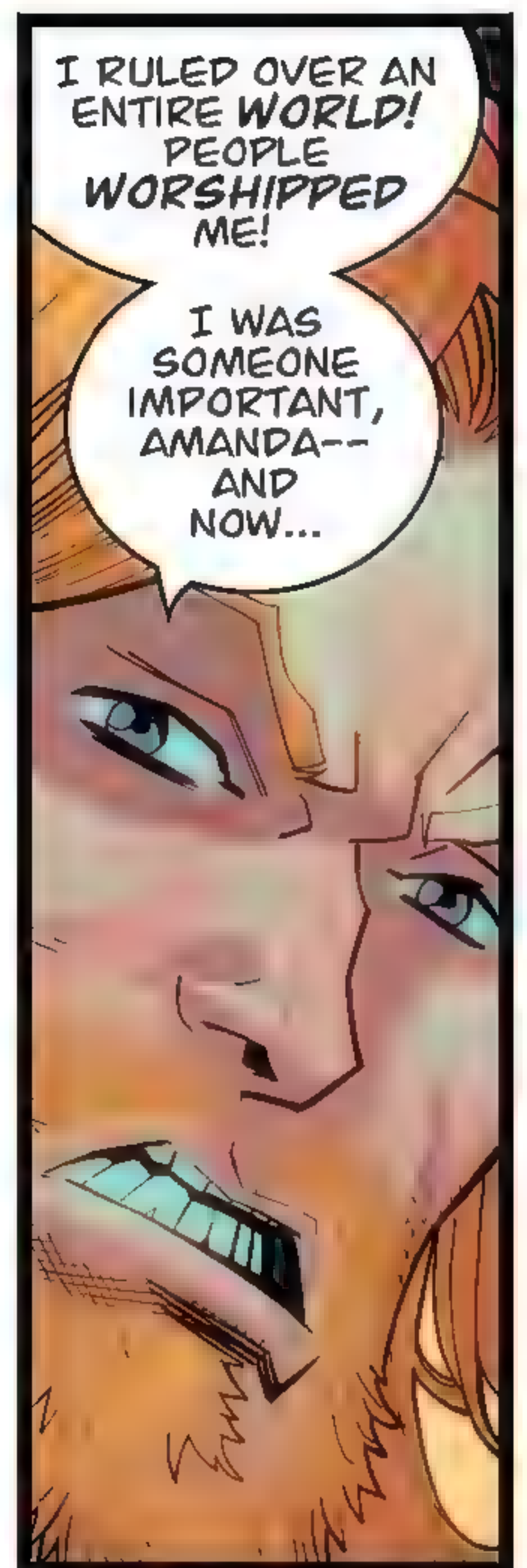
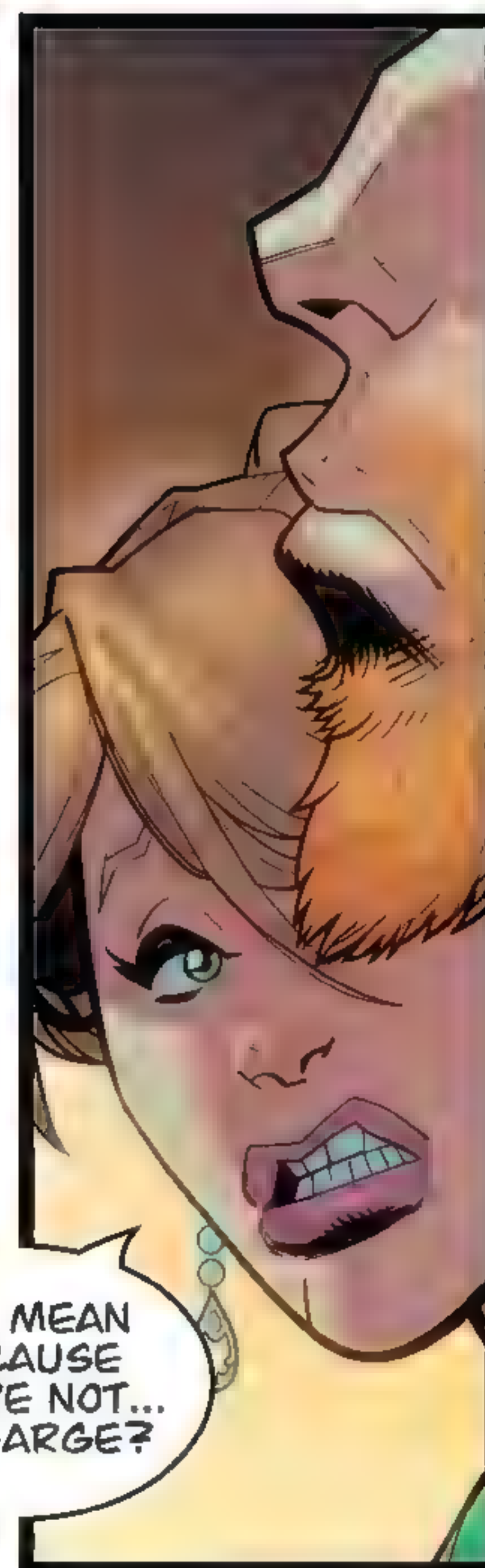
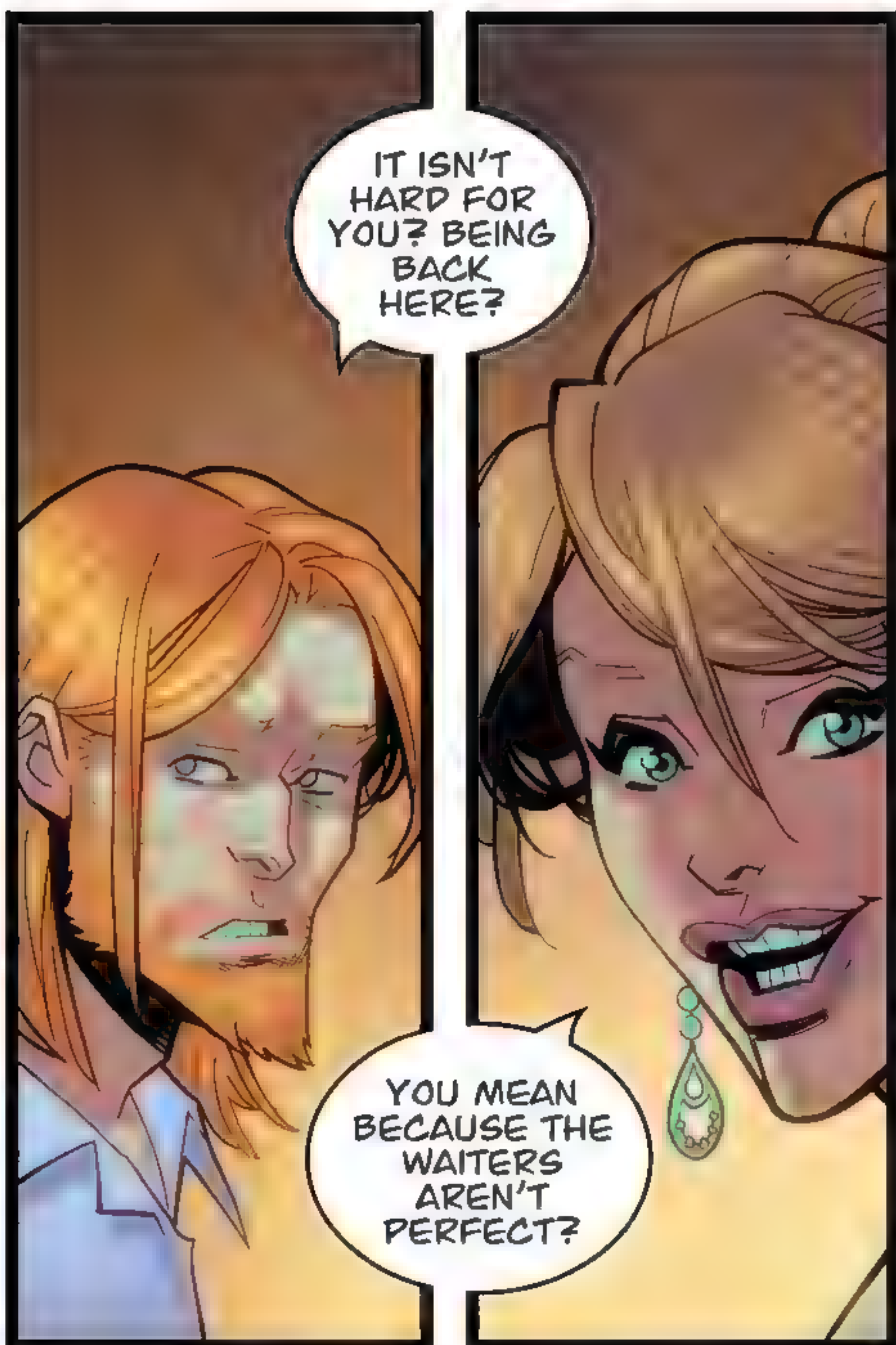


THIS ISN'T WHAT I ORDERED.

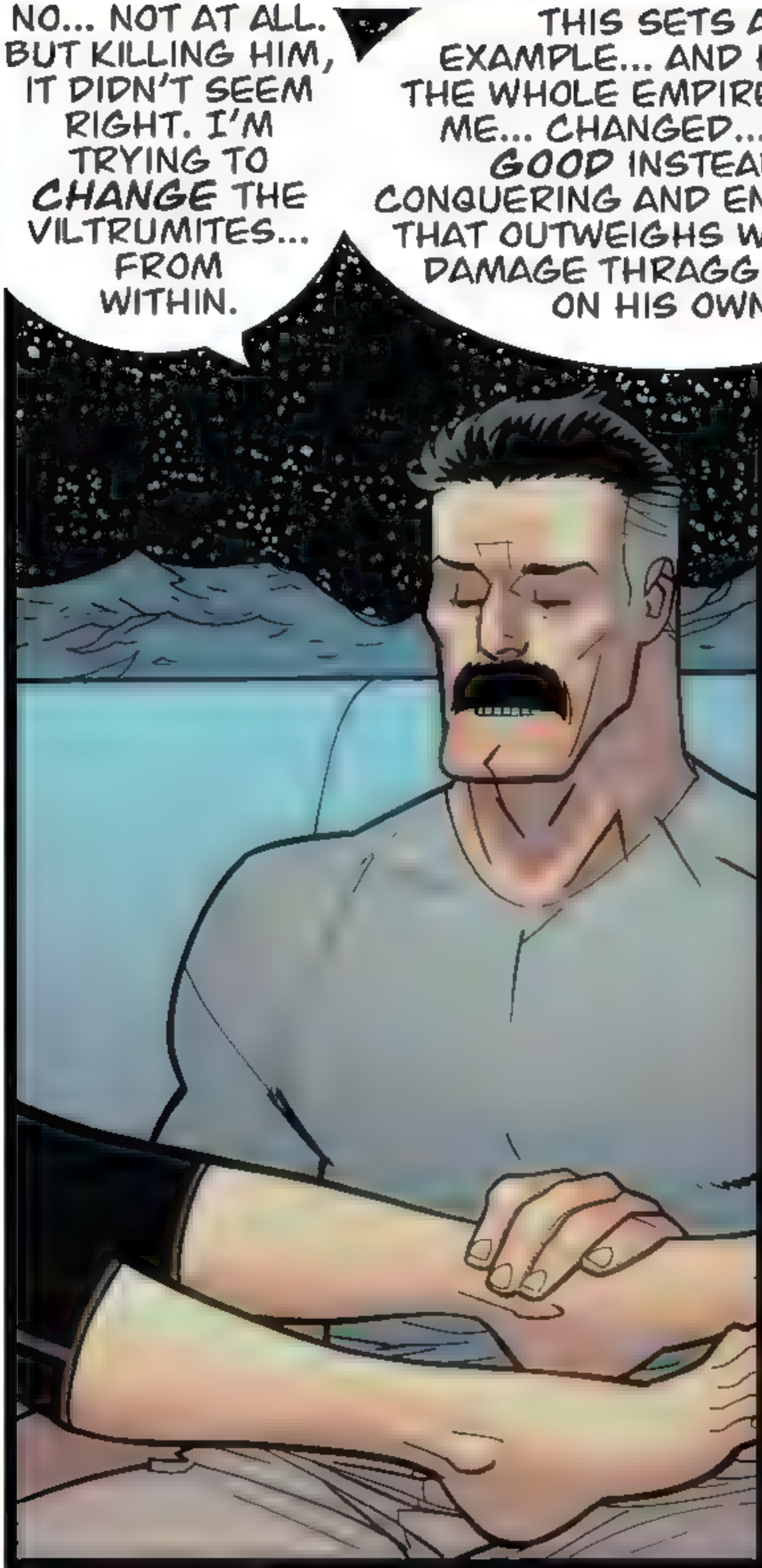
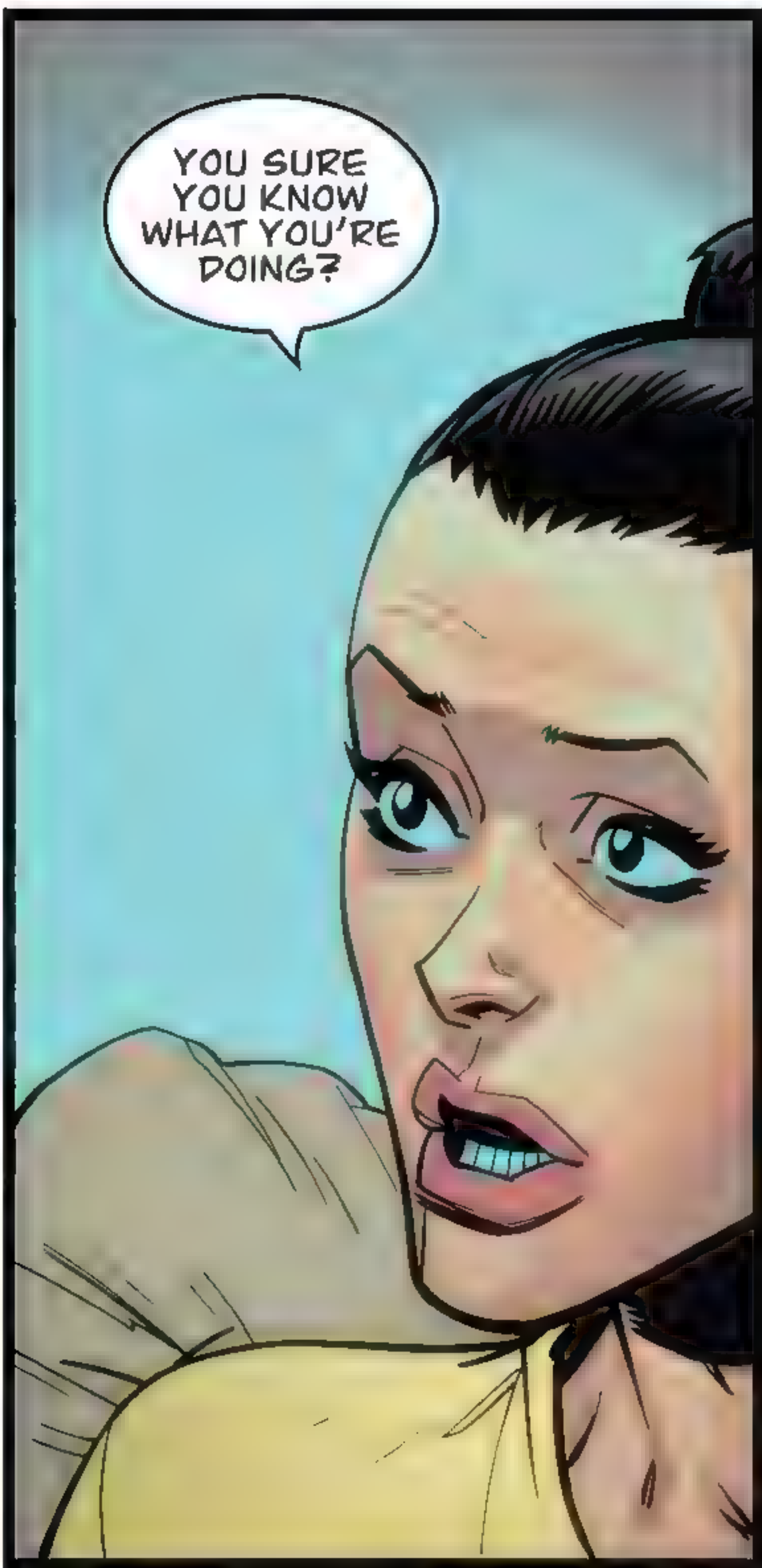
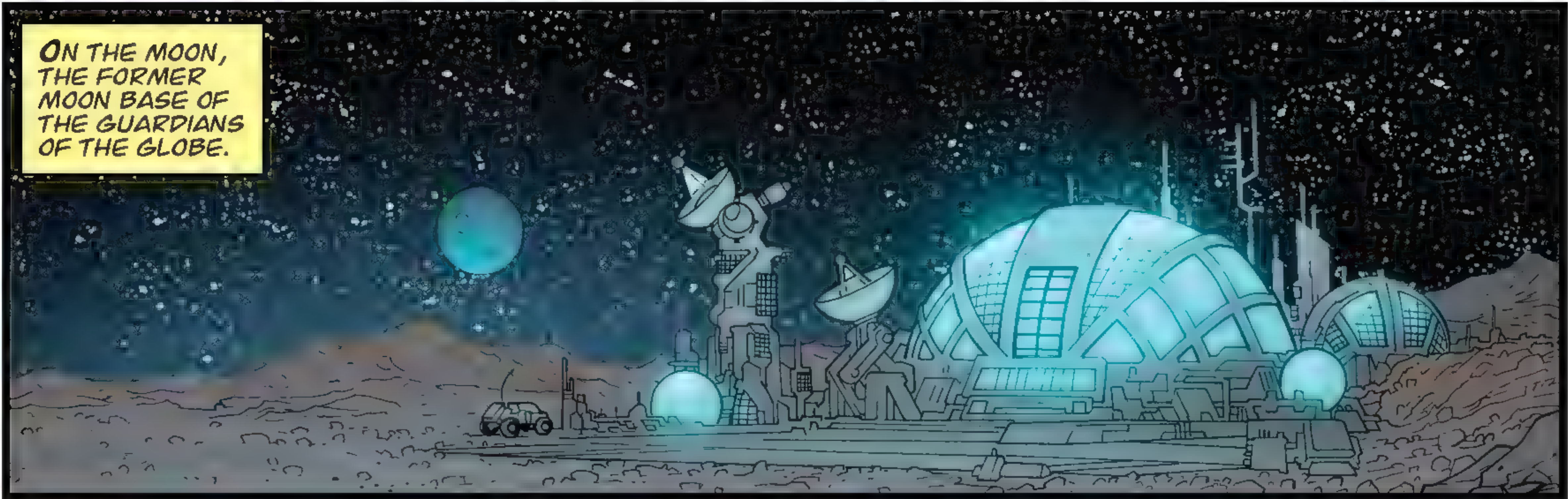
ARE YOU SURE?

ABSOLUTELY. DOES THIS LOOK LIKE SALMON TO YOU?

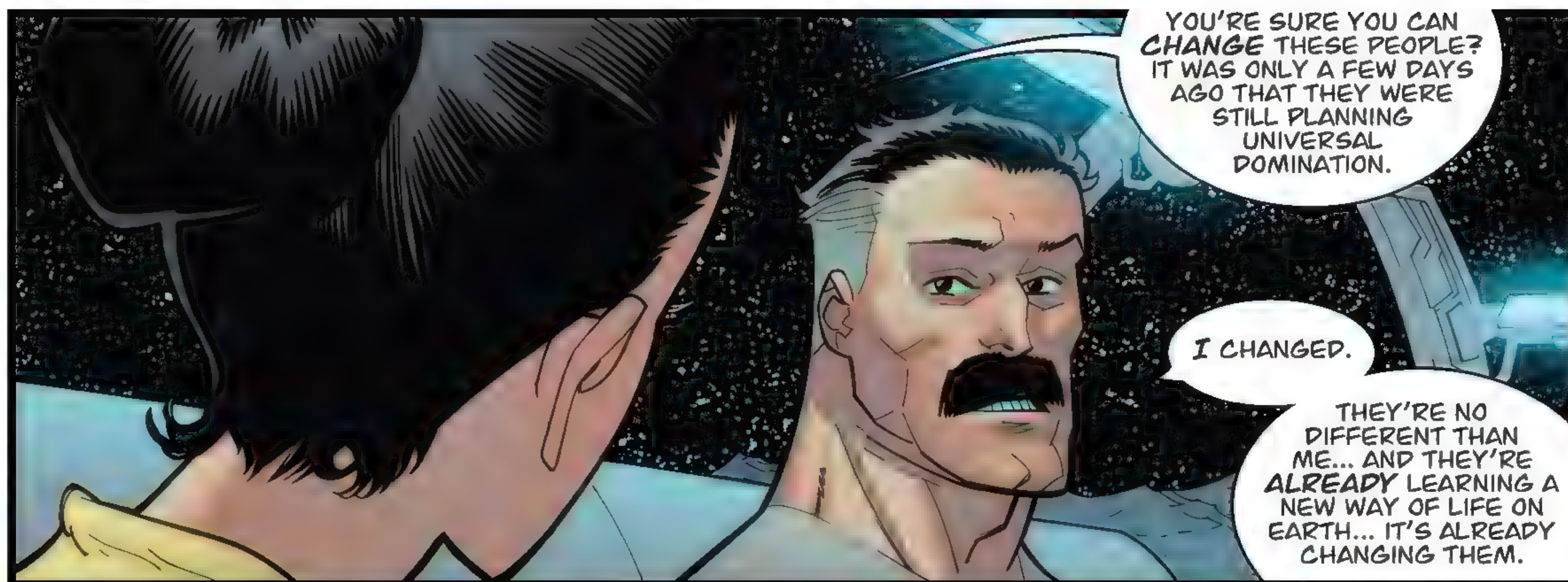








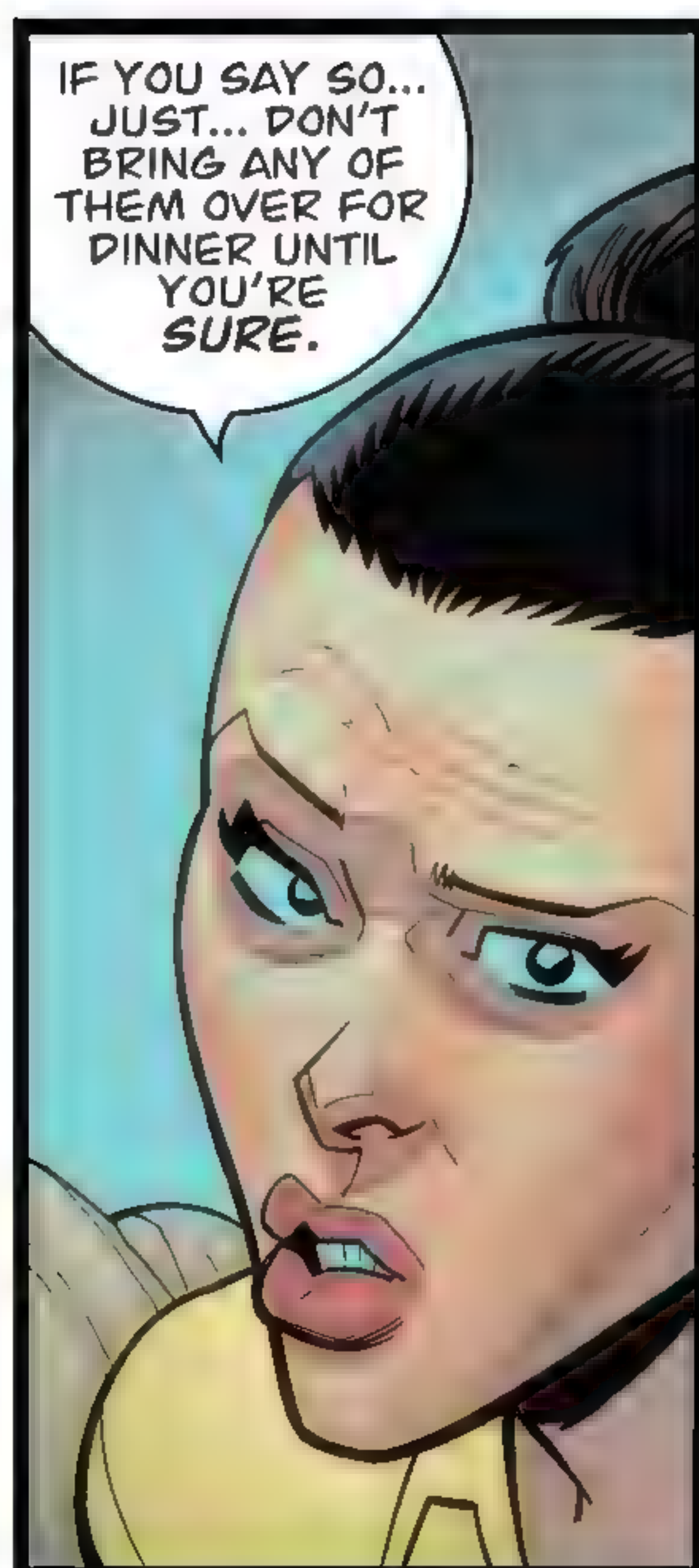




YOU'RE SURE YOU CAN CHANGE THESE PEOPLE? IT WAS ONLY A FEW DAYS AGO THAT THEY WERE STILL PLANNING UNIVERSAL DOMINATION.

I CHANGED.

THEY'RE NO DIFFERENT THAN ME... AND THEY'RE ALREADY LEARNING A NEW WAY OF LIFE ON EARTH... IT'S ALREADY CHANGING THEM.



IF YOU SAY SO... JUST... DON'T BRING ANY OF THEM OVER FOR DINNER UNTIL YOU'RE SURE.



SO THAT MEANS YOU'RE STILL AGAINST MOVING INTO THE FLAGSHIP? THERE'S TONS OF ROOM... I COULD CONVERT A GATHERING HALL INTO A TENNIS COURT.

YOU USED TO LOVE TENNIS.



NOT THAT MUCH. NO, I DON'T WANT TO LIVE IN A VILTRUMITE DEATH SHIP... IF IT'S ALL THE SAME TO YOU.



UNDERSTOOD.



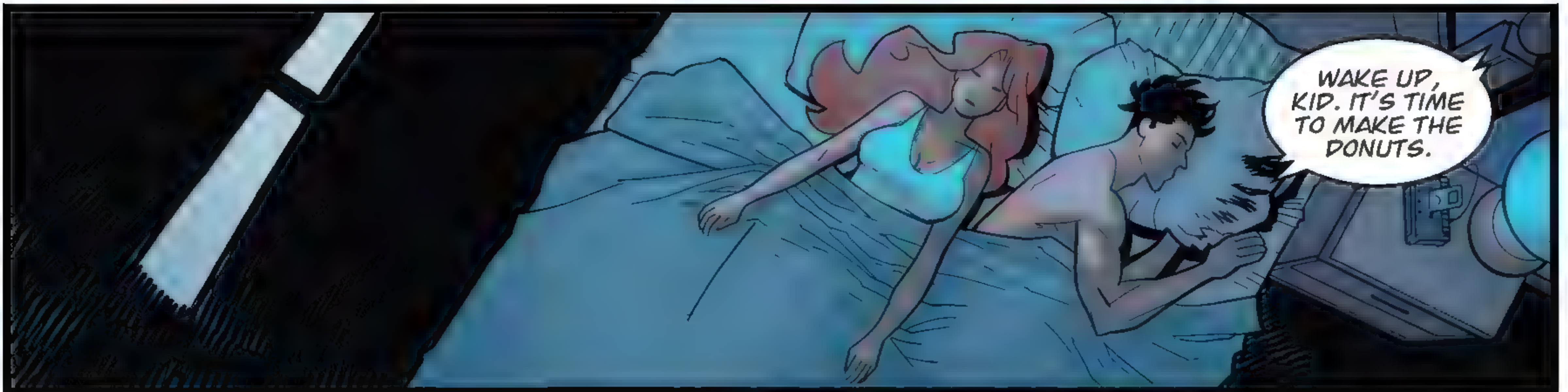
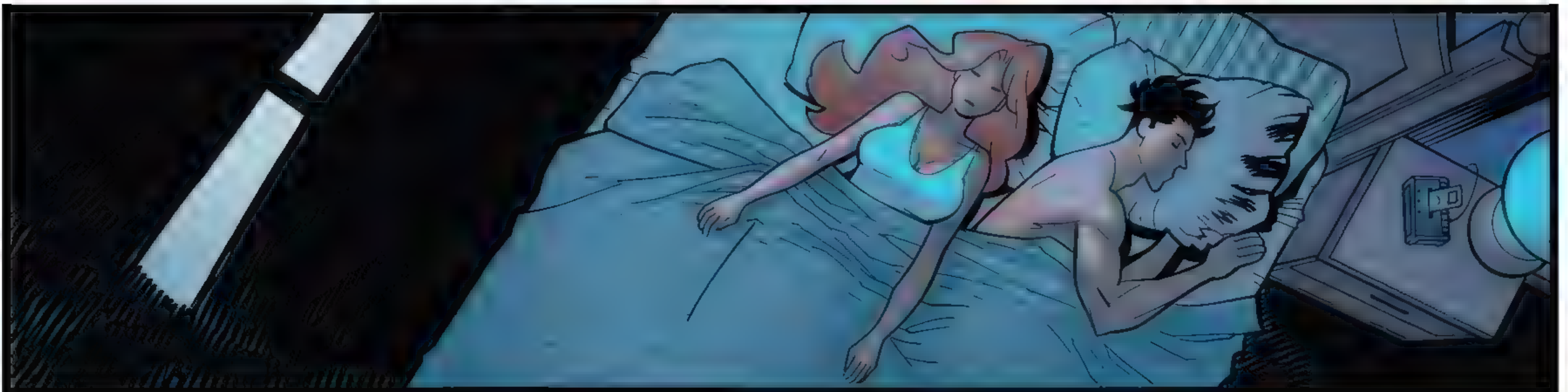
HEY, I'M A LITTLE COLD... WHERE'S THAT CAPE THINGY WITH THE FUR AT THE TOP? THAT'S THE BEST BLANKET IN THIS PLACE.

THAT'S A CEREMONIAL GARB THAT'S BEEN WORN BY THE RULERS OF THE EMPIRE FOR THOUSANDS OF YEARS... YOU'RE USING THAT AS A BLANKET?

IT IS VERY COZY...

I'LL GET IT.





CECIL?  
UGH.

OH, HOW  
I'VE  
MISSED  
THIS...

YOU KNOW  
YOU LOVE ME.  
THIS IS GOING TO BE  
AN EASY ONE FOR  
YOU, BUT I NEED YOU  
TO STOP THIS GUY  
BEFORE HE REACHES A  
GDA STRONGHOLD HE  
DOESN'T EVEN KNOW  
IS THERE.



IT'S KIND OF  
IMPORTANT.

I'M  
ON IT.



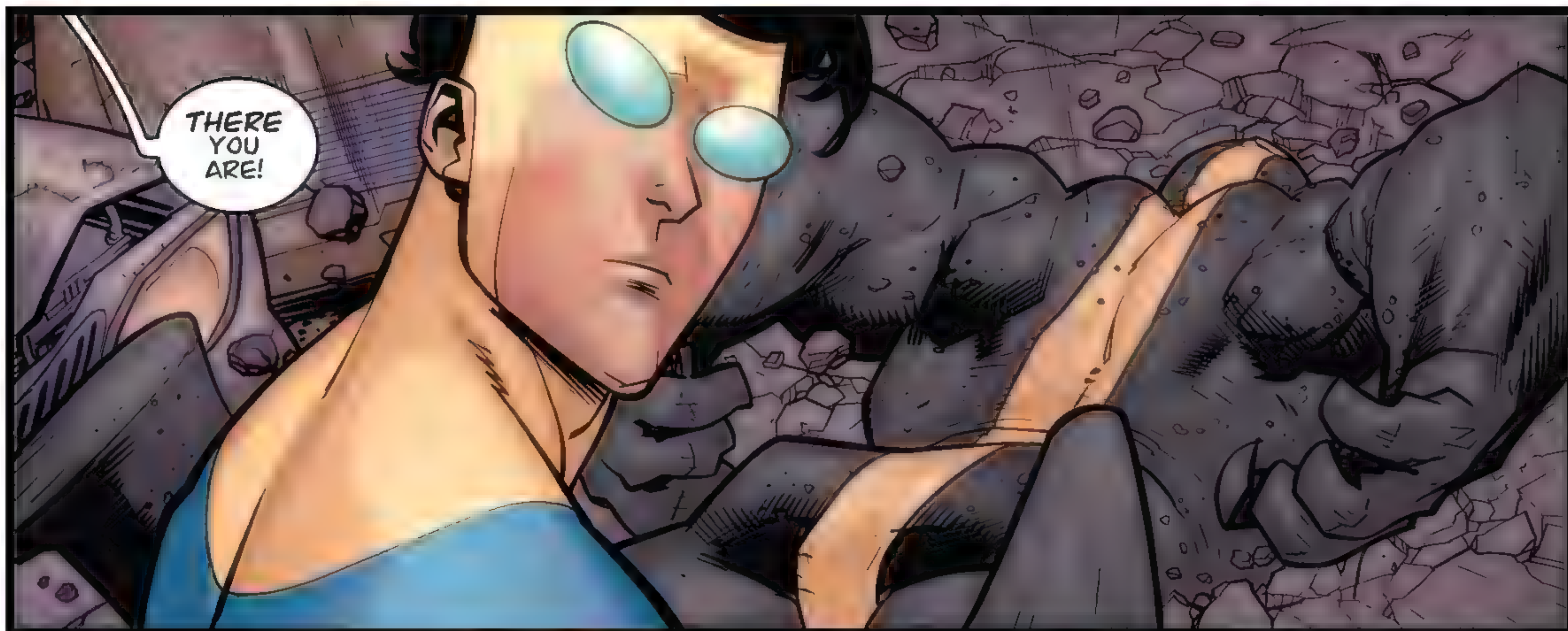


YEAH,  
RIGHT...

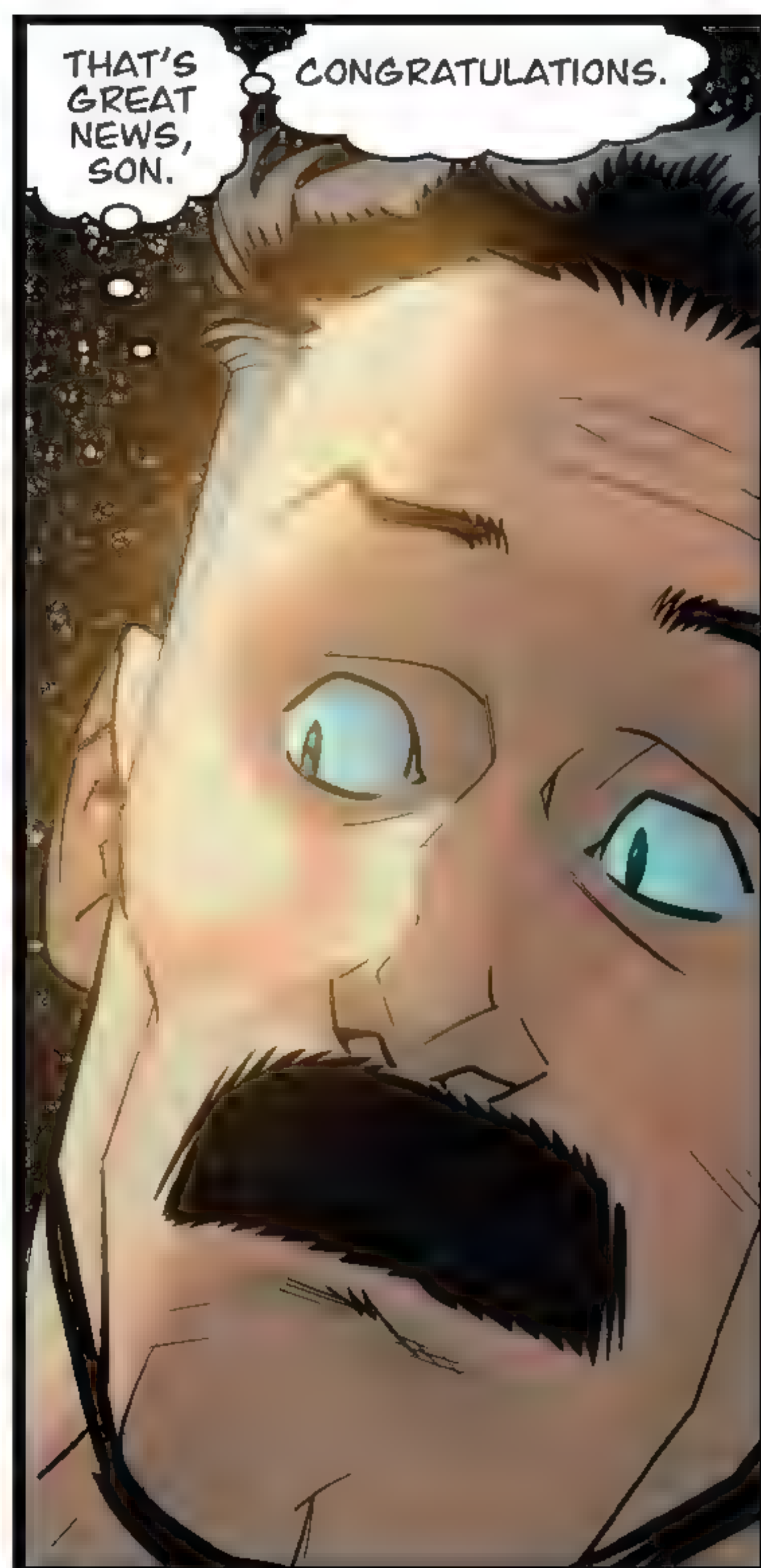
"EASY."

**KROOK!**













YOU'RE REALLY SURE THAT IF THRAGG CAUSES ANY TROUBLE, YOU CAN DEAL WITH IT?

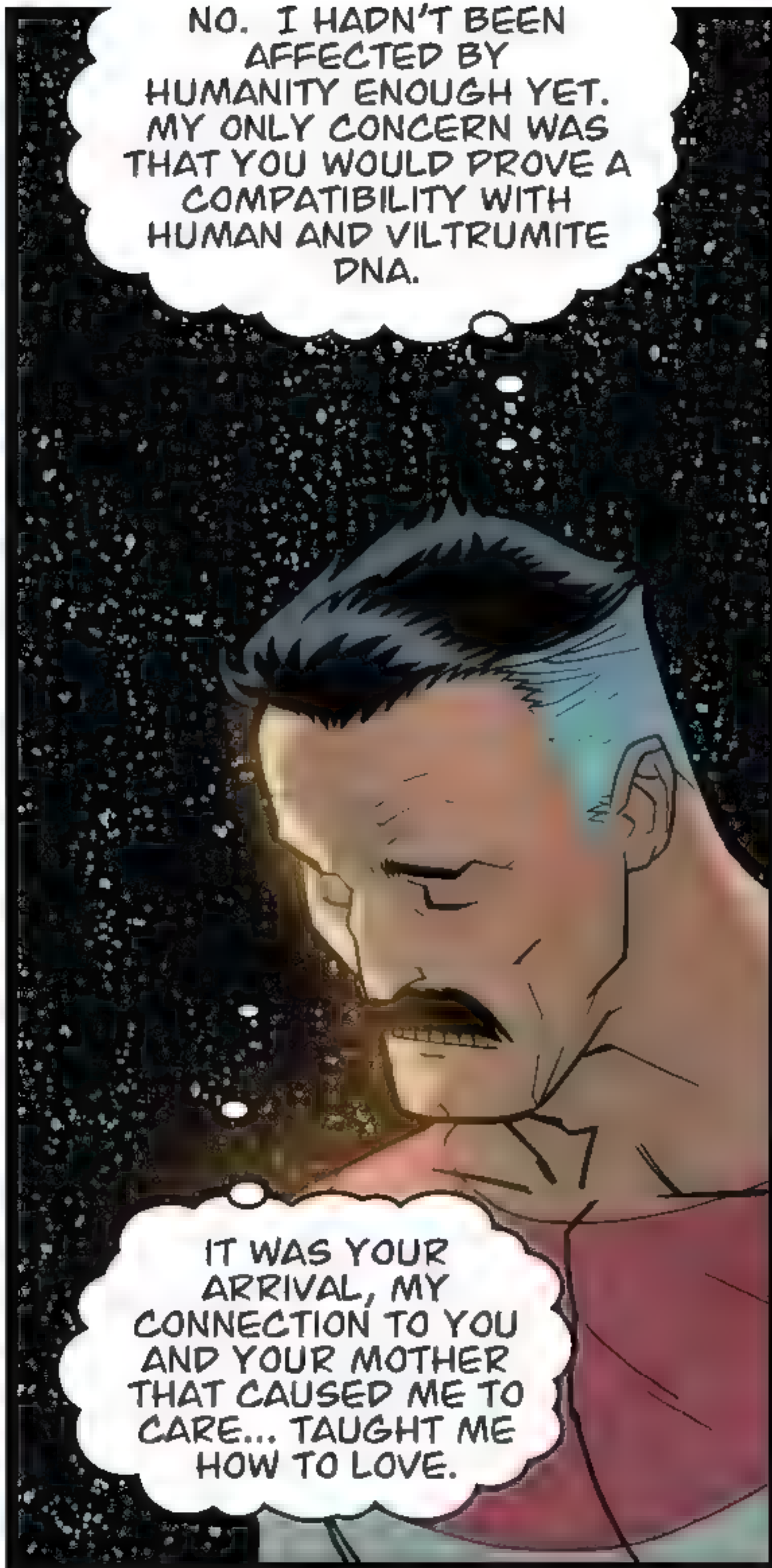
I HAVE THE WHOLE VILTRUM EMPIRE UNDER MY COMMAND. SO YEAH.

THIS IS JUST WEIRD. HEY, HOW'D YOU FIND ME SO EASILY?



CAN YOU... HELP ME, I MEAN... NOT BE SO SCARED? I'M WORRIED I'M GOING TO SCREW IT UP... OR THAT I'LL GET THROWN INTO THE FUTURE AND MISS ITS CHILDHOOD OR SOMETHING.

WERE YOU SCARED WHEN MOM WAS PREGNANT?



NO. I HADN'T BEEN AFFECTED BY HUMANITY ENOUGH YET. MY ONLY CONCERN WAS THAT YOU WOULD PROVE A COMPATIBILITY WITH HUMAN AND VILTRUMITE DNA.

IT WAS YOUR ARRIVAL, MY CONNECTION TO YOU AND YOUR MOTHER THAT CAUSED ME TO CARE... TAUGHT ME HOW TO LOVE.



AND SINCE THEN?












# CHAPTER FOUR







MADE CLEAR  
TO ME IT IS. DEAD  
MY MEN ARE.  
NONE LEFT THERE  
IS BUT US. SEE  
THIS I CAN.

TO MY HEAD  
WENT THE POWER.  
LOST CONTROL WAS.  
FORGOTTEN WAS  
ORIGINAL PURPOSE  
THAT CAUSED  
ME TO TAKE  
COMMAND.

POWER  
WAS I  
OBSESSED  
WITH. CLEAR  
TO ME NOW  
IT IS.

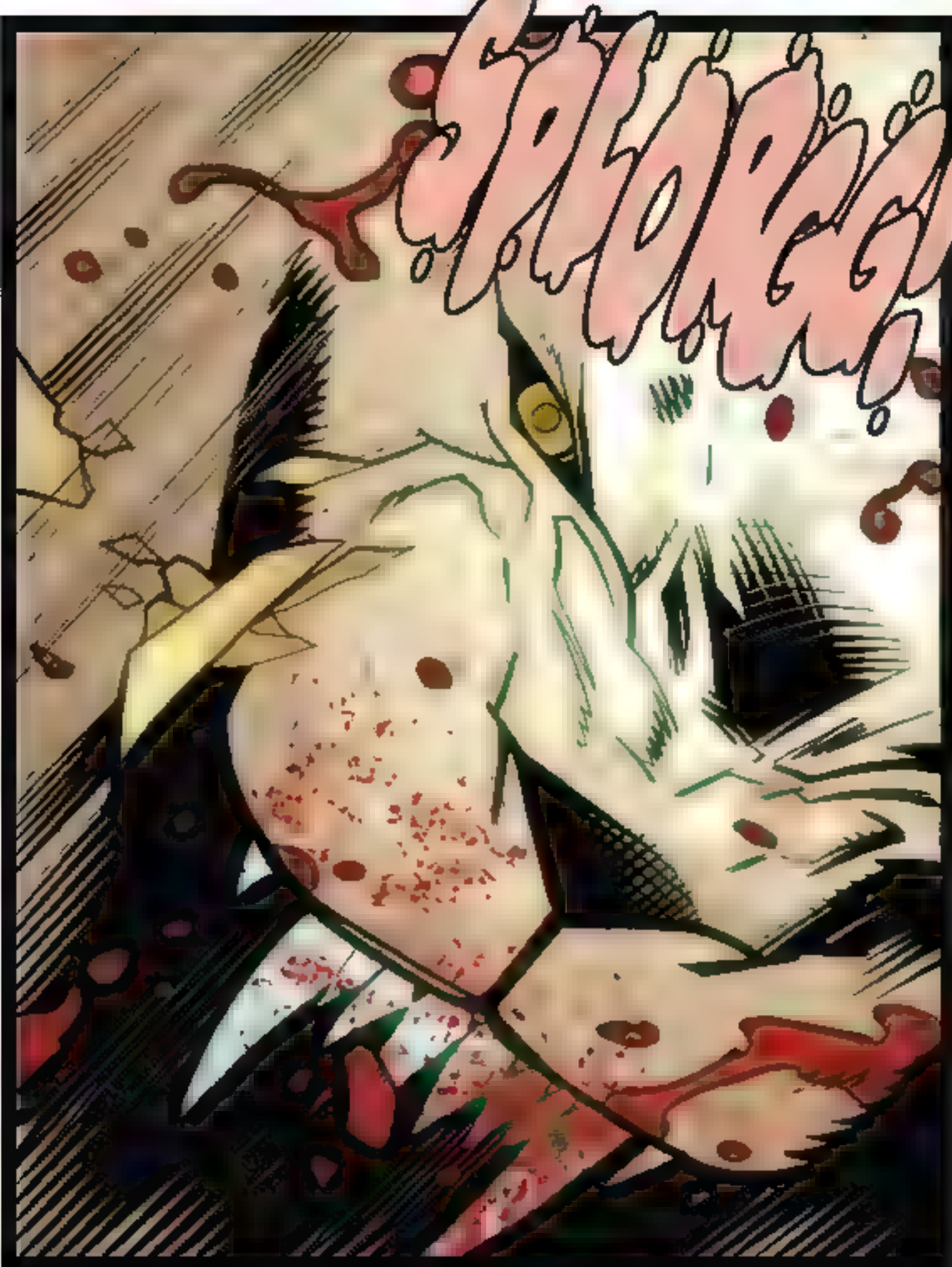
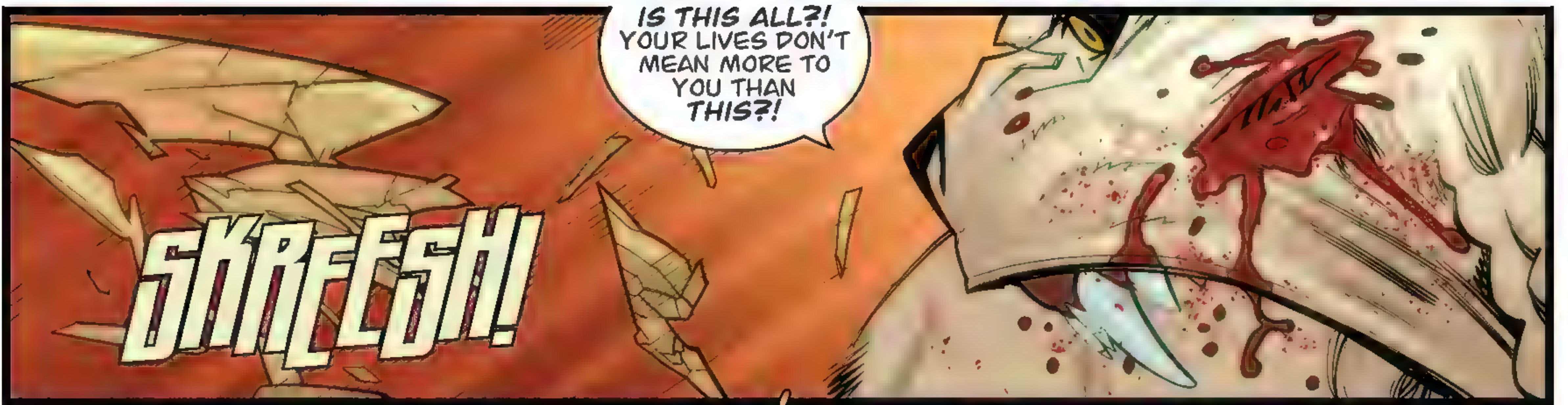
OPPRESS  
MY PEOPLE,  
NEVER  
AGAIN I  
WILL.

THAT LAST  
PART, AT  
LEAST, I  
KNOW TO BE  
TRUE.

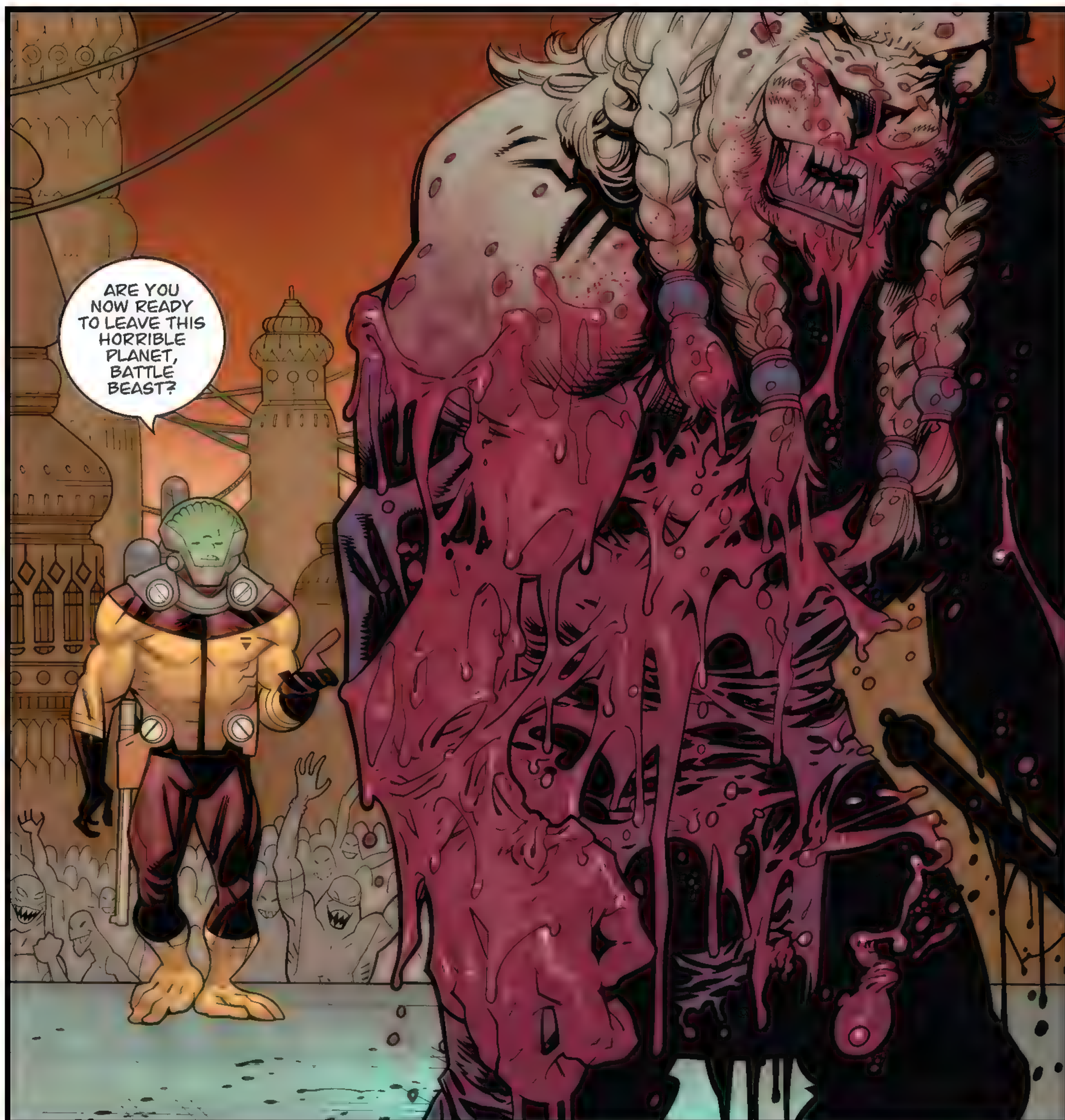












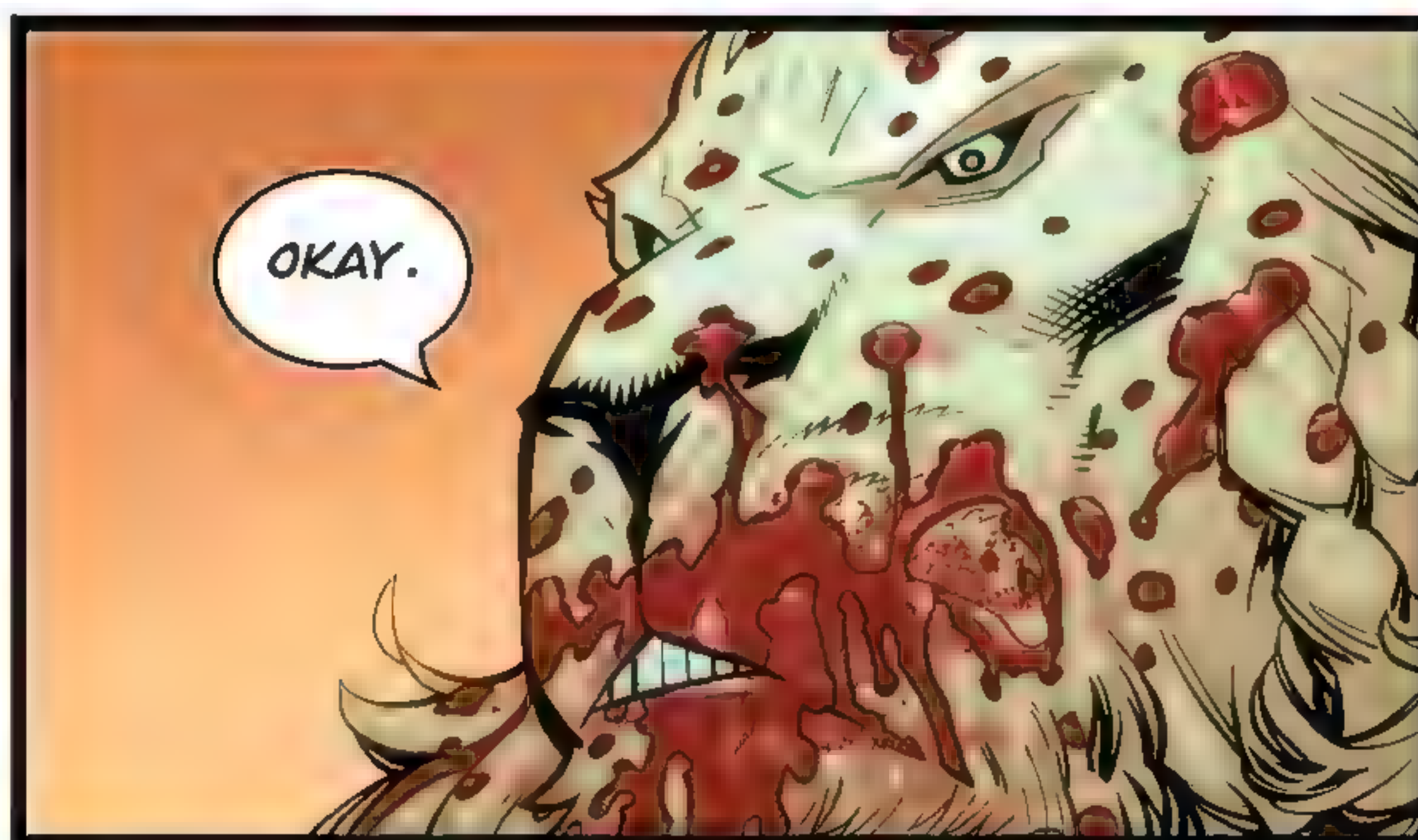
ARE YOU  
NOW READY  
TO LEAVE THIS  
HORRIBLE  
PLANET,  
BATTLE  
BEAST?



YES. THIS  
WORLD HOLDS  
NO MORE  
CHALLENGES  
FOR ME TO  
FACE.

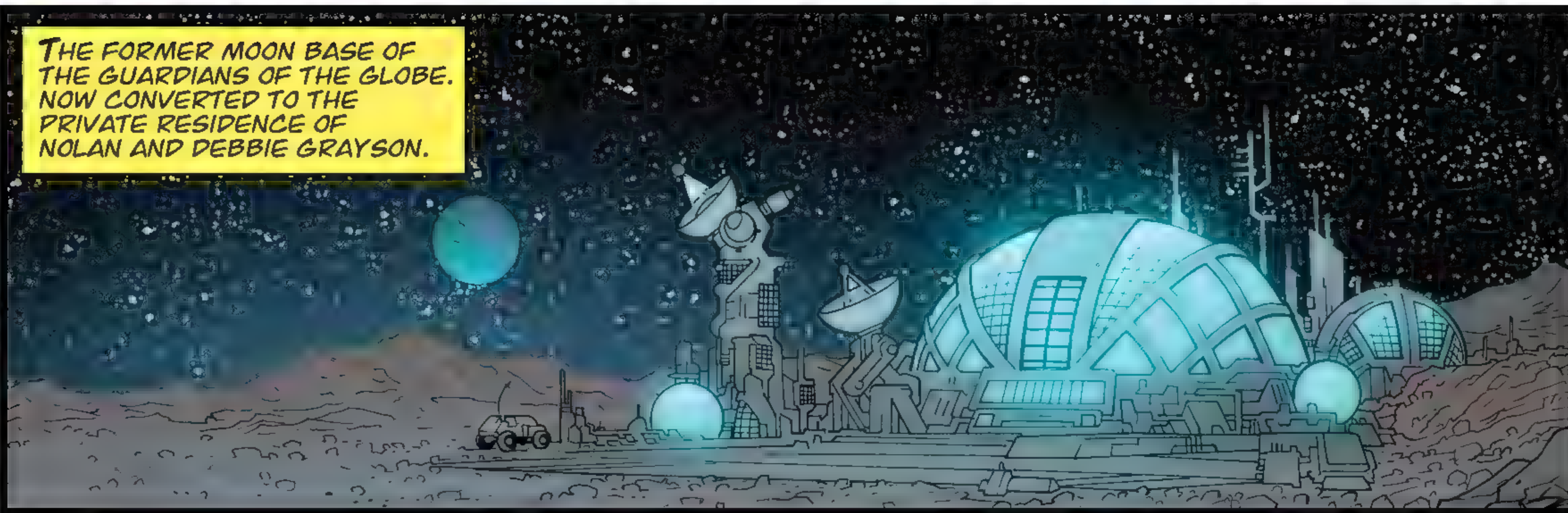
I WILL  
COMPLY WITH  
ALLEN'S REQUEST  
AND ACCOMPANY  
YOU BACK TO  
TALESCRIA.







THE FORMER MOON BASE OF  
THE GUARDIANS OF THE GLOBE.  
NOW CONVERTED TO THE  
PRIVATE RESIDENCE OF  
NOLAN AND DEBBIE GRAYSON.



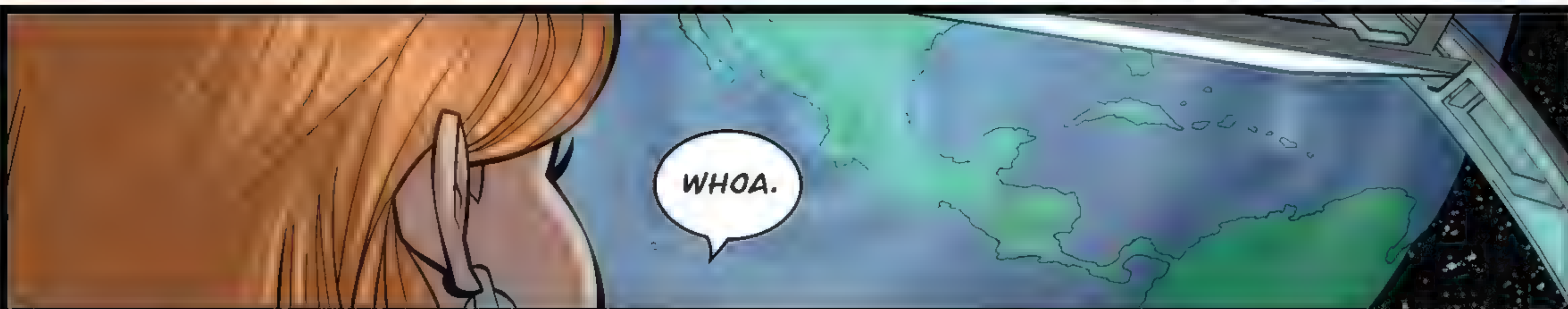
OKAY, SERIOUSLY...  
THIS PLACE IS **COOL!**  
WE ARE GOING TO  
VISIT WAY MORE  
OFTEN.

THIS  
IS JUST  
AMAZING!

I FORGET  
SOMETIMES HOW  
LITTLE TIME YOU  
SPEND IN SPACE. FEELS  
LIKE EVERY DAY FOR  
ME. OF COURSE...  
THAT NEVER GETS OLD.



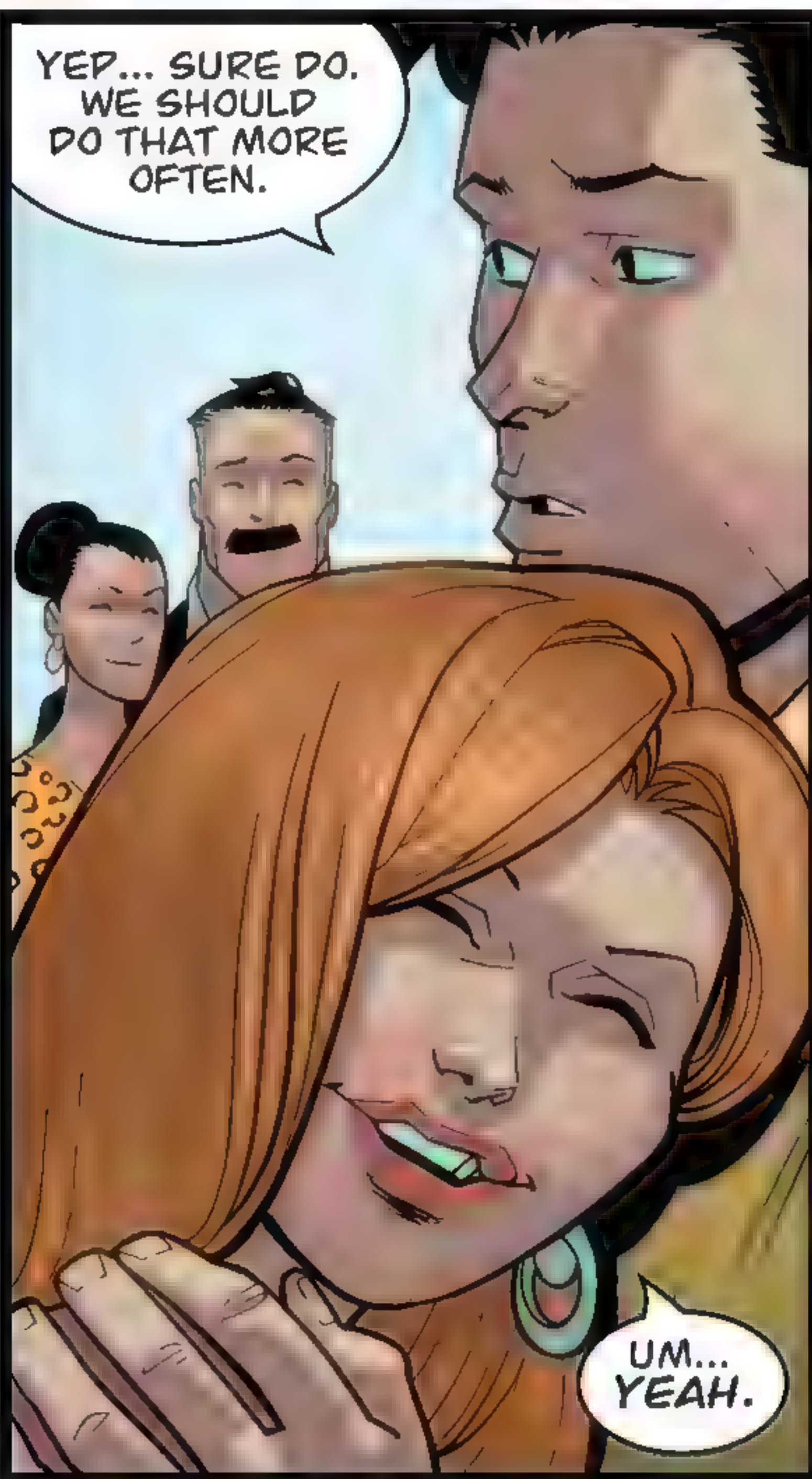
WHOA.



DO YOU  
REMEMBER THAT  
DATE WE WENT ON? WE  
SAT ON THE MOON. I DON'T  
EVEN THINK THIS PLACE  
WAS BUILT YET...



YEP... SURE DO.  
WE SHOULD  
DO THAT MORE  
OFTEN.

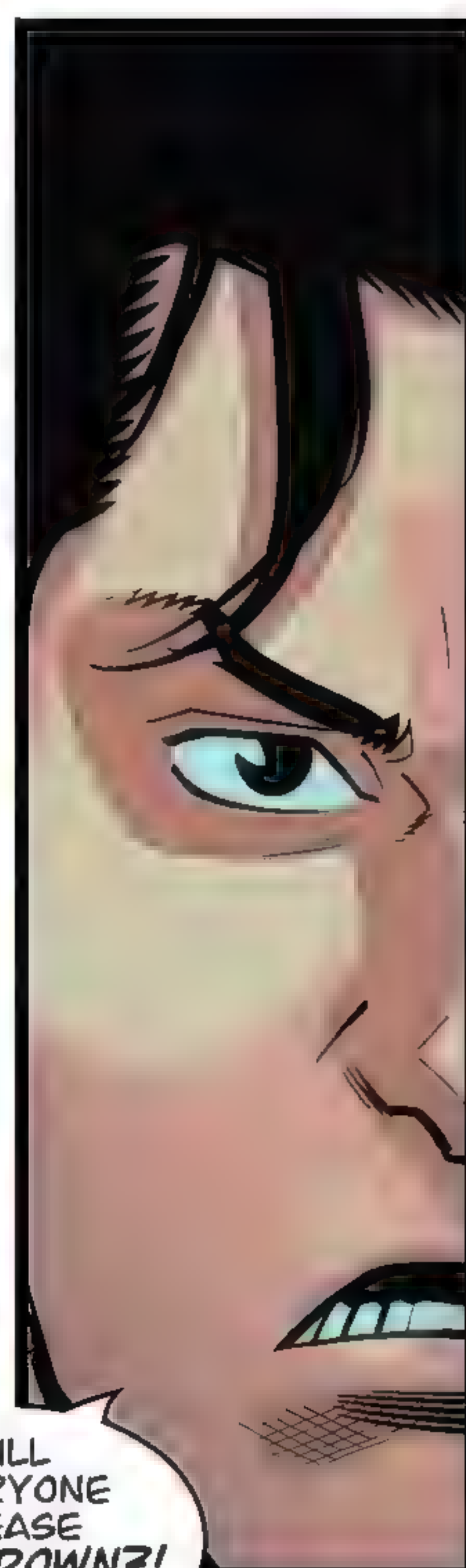
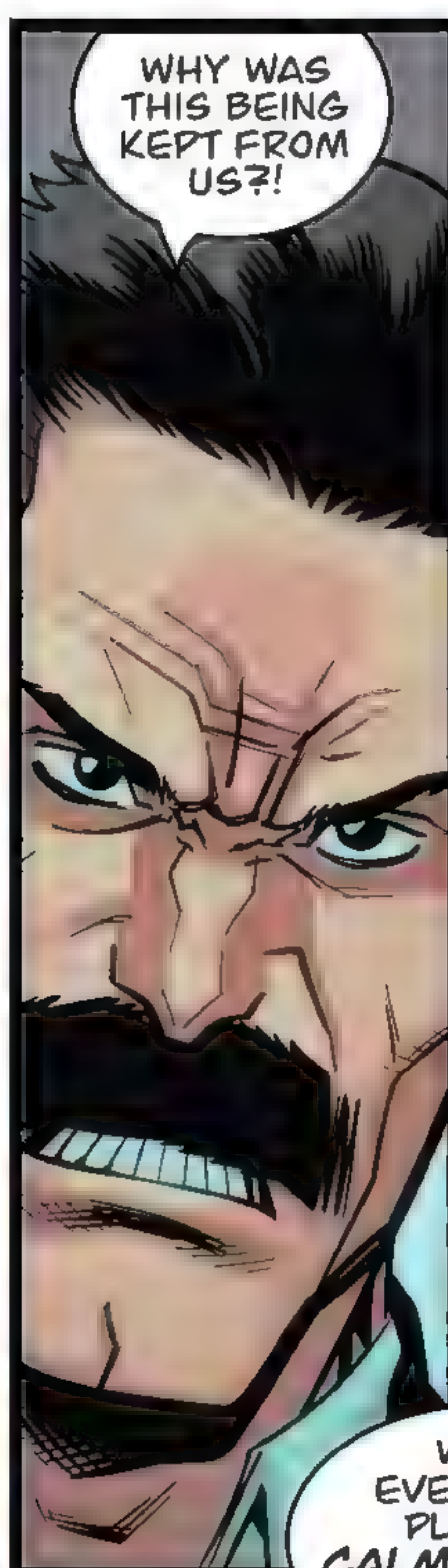
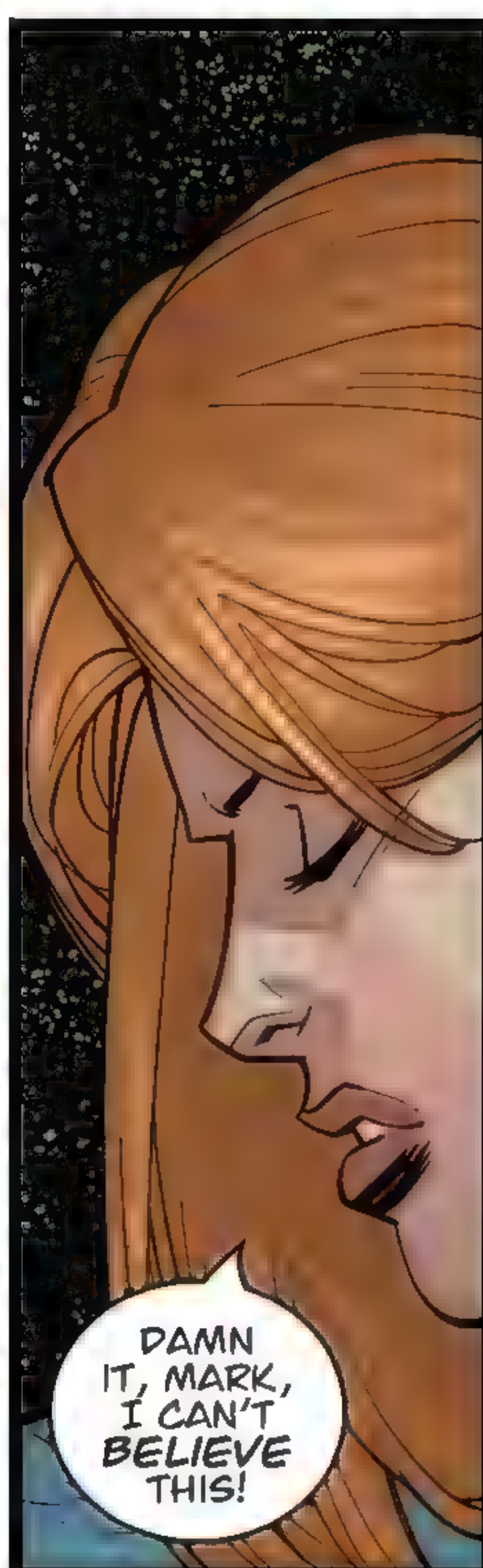
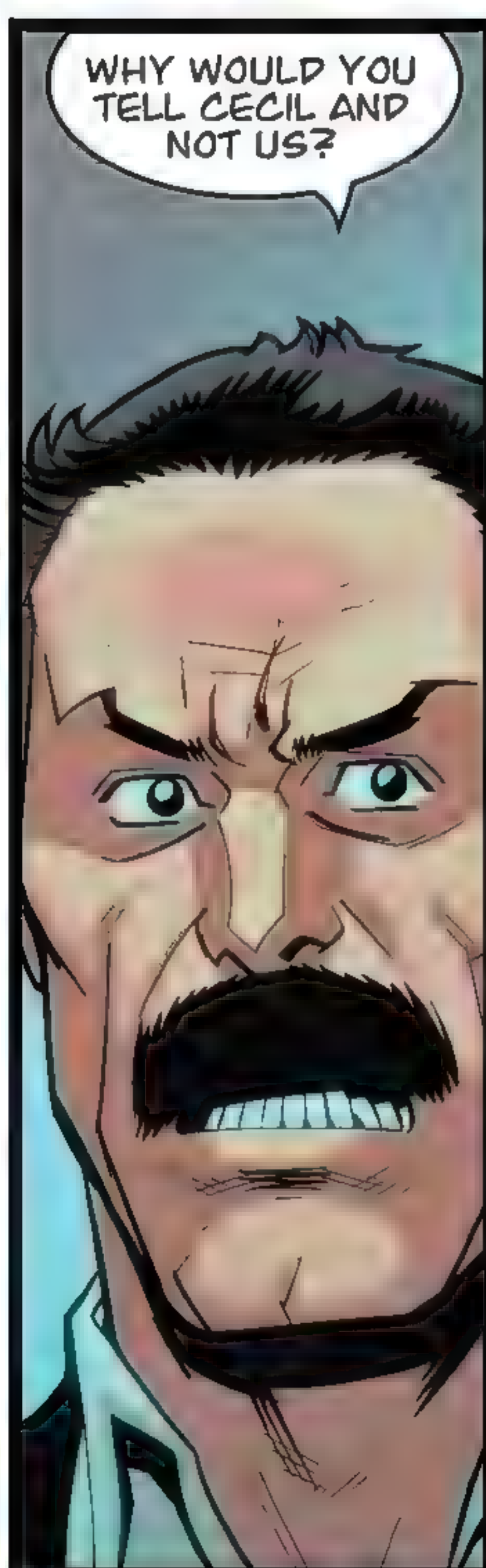
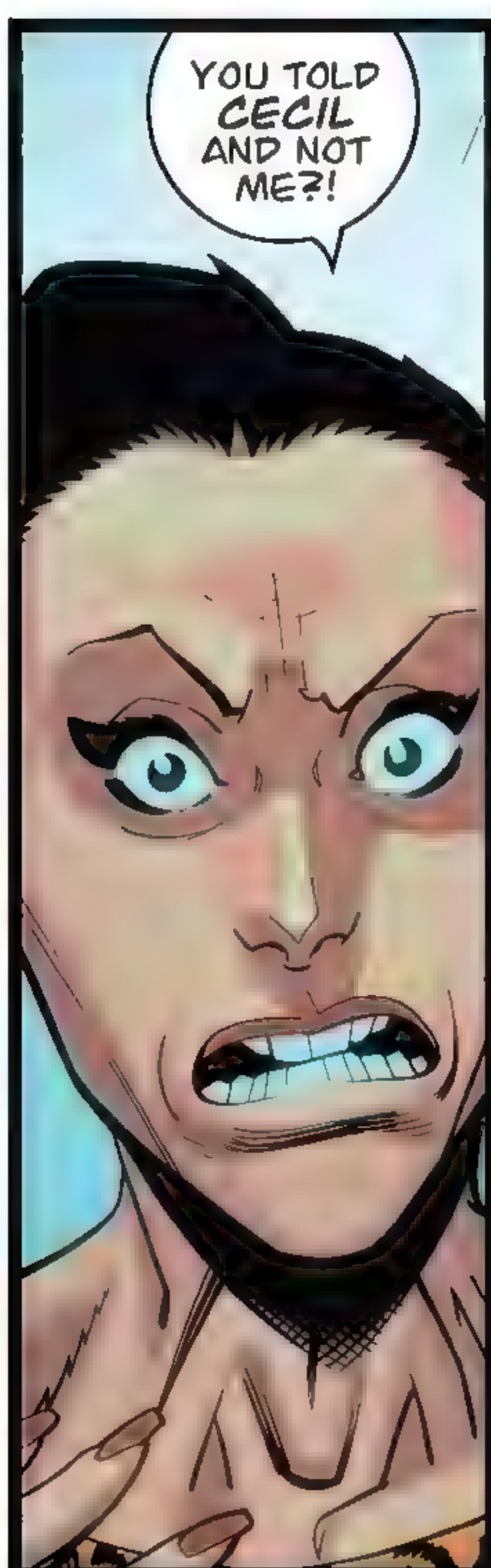
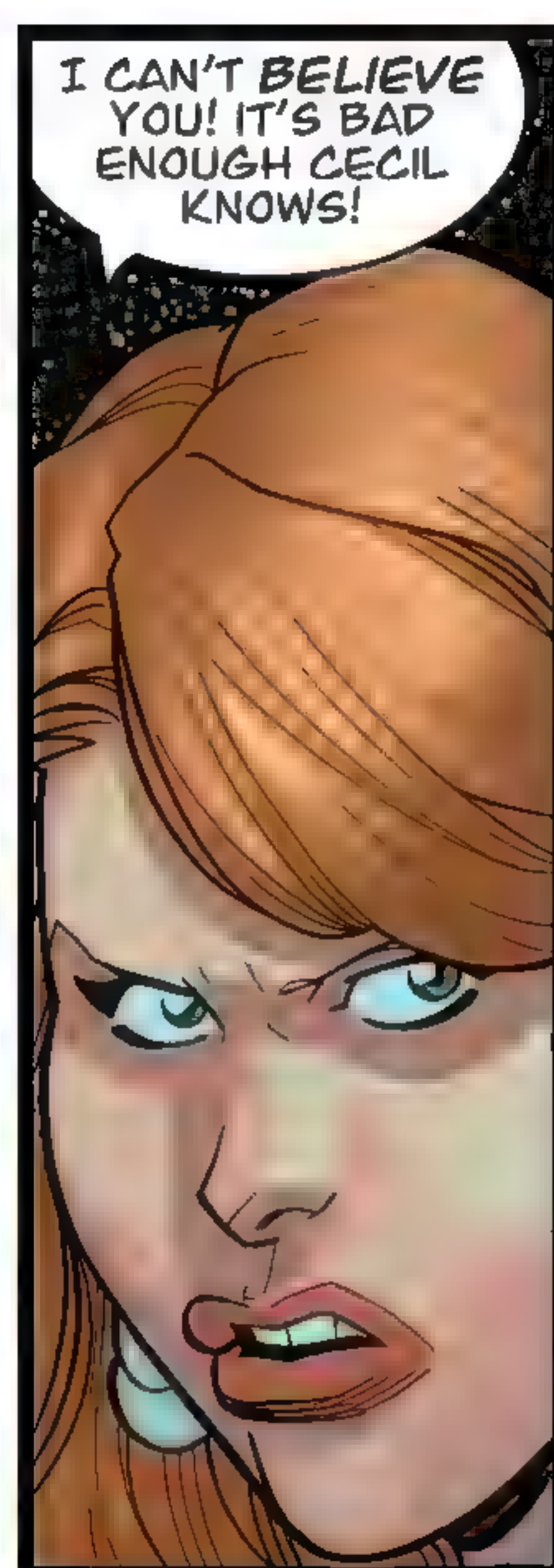
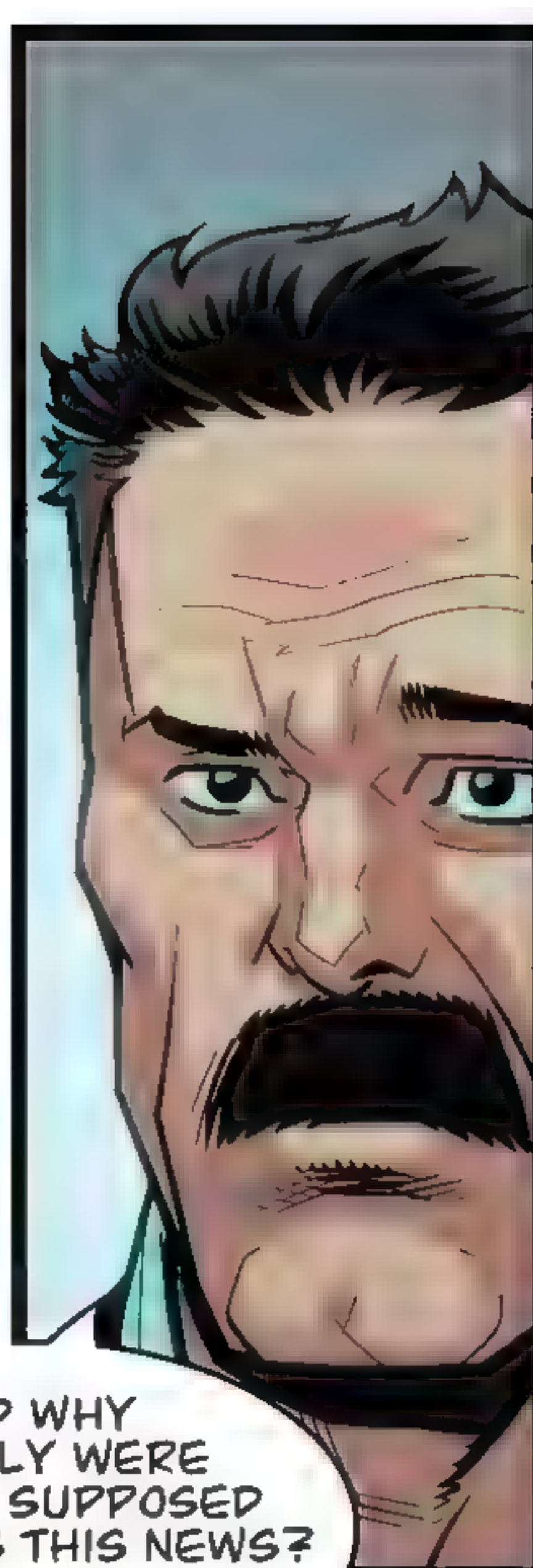
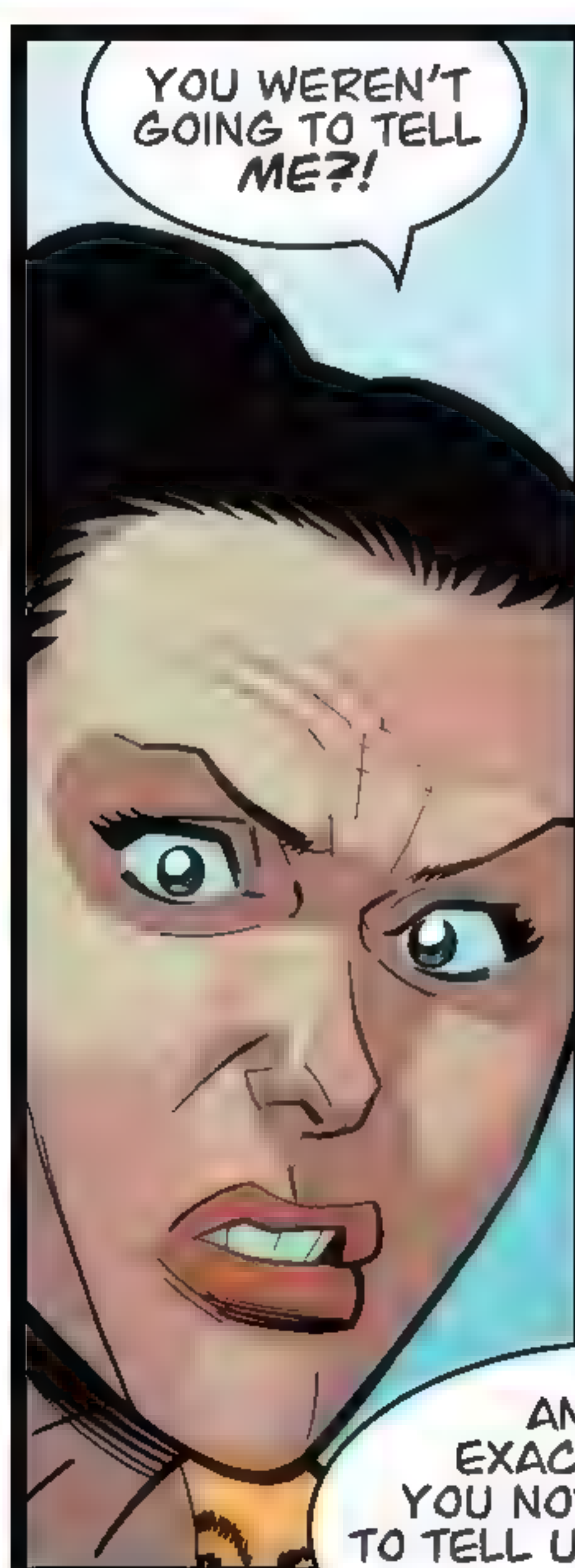
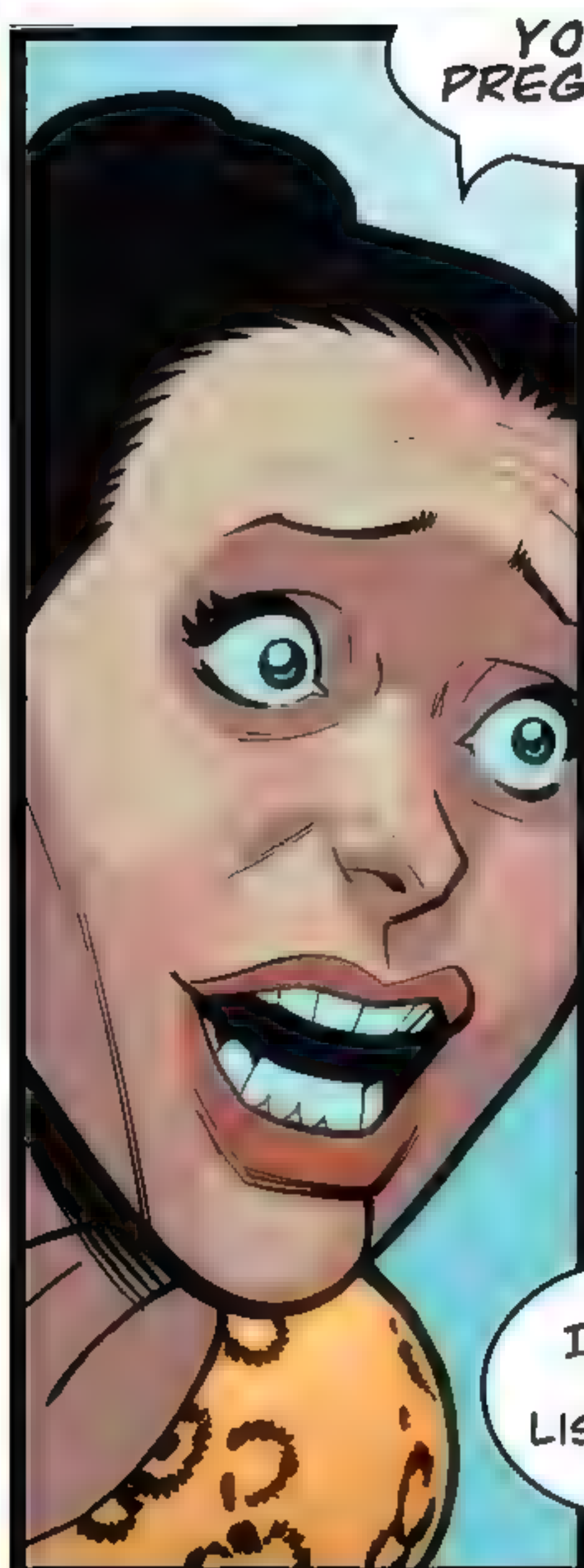
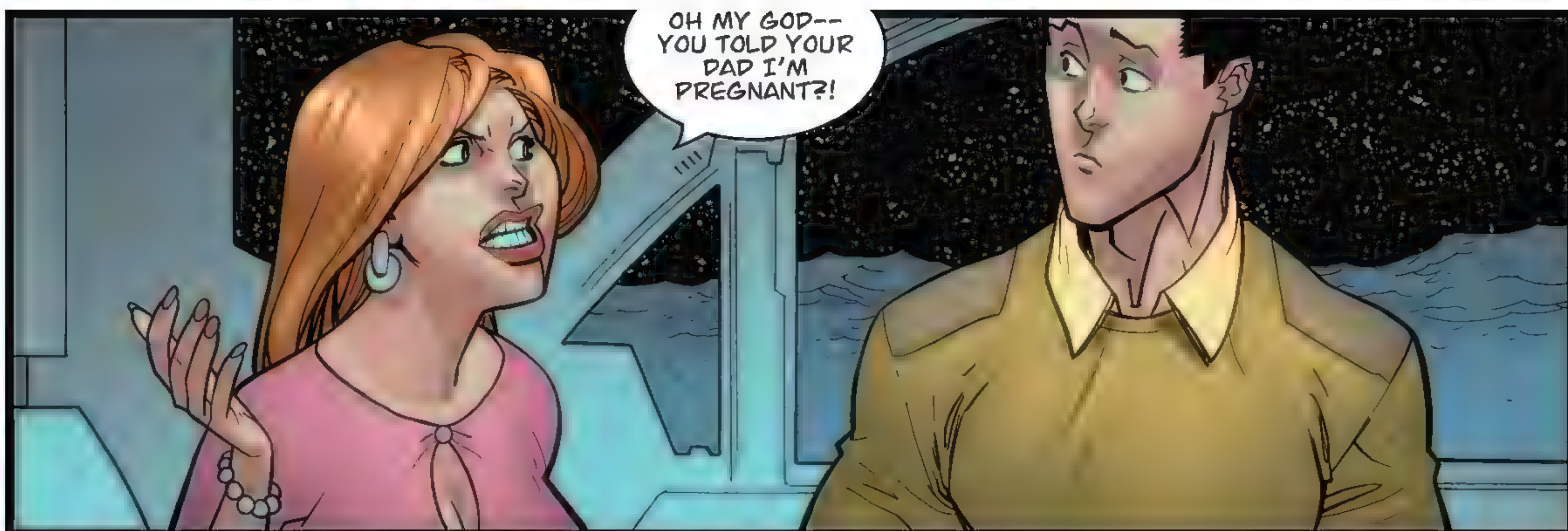


UM...  
YEAH.

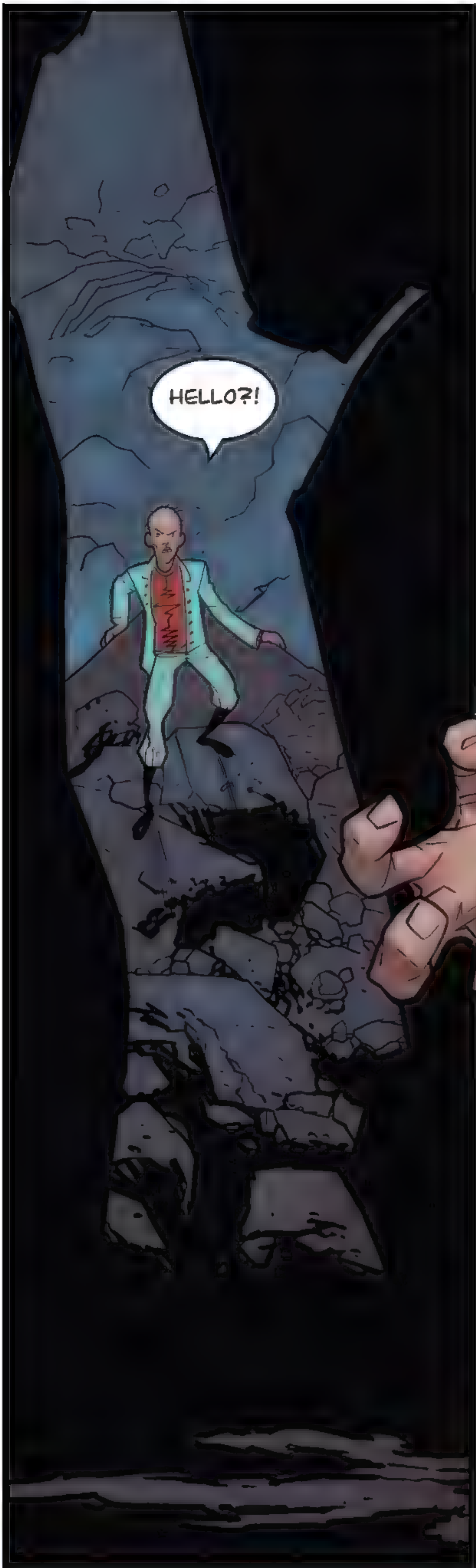
ARE YOU  
GOING TO TELL  
YOUR MOTHER  
THE NEWS OR  
SHOULD I?



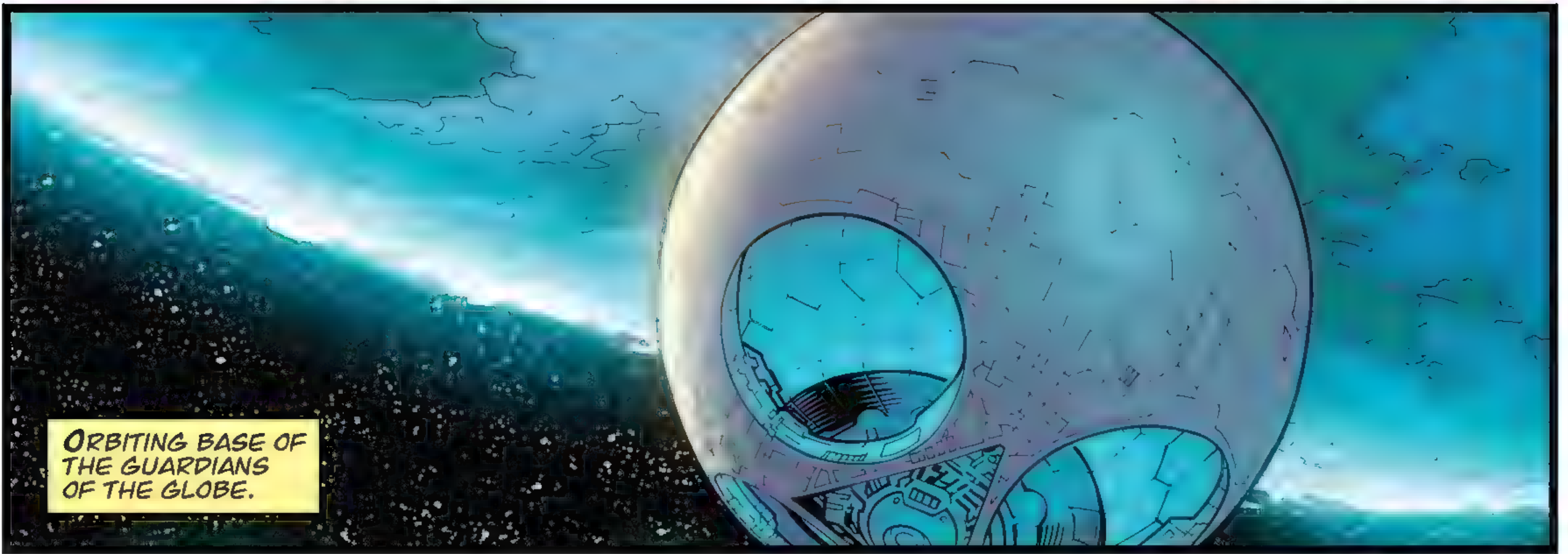












ORBITING BASE OF THE GUARDIANS OF THE GLOBE.

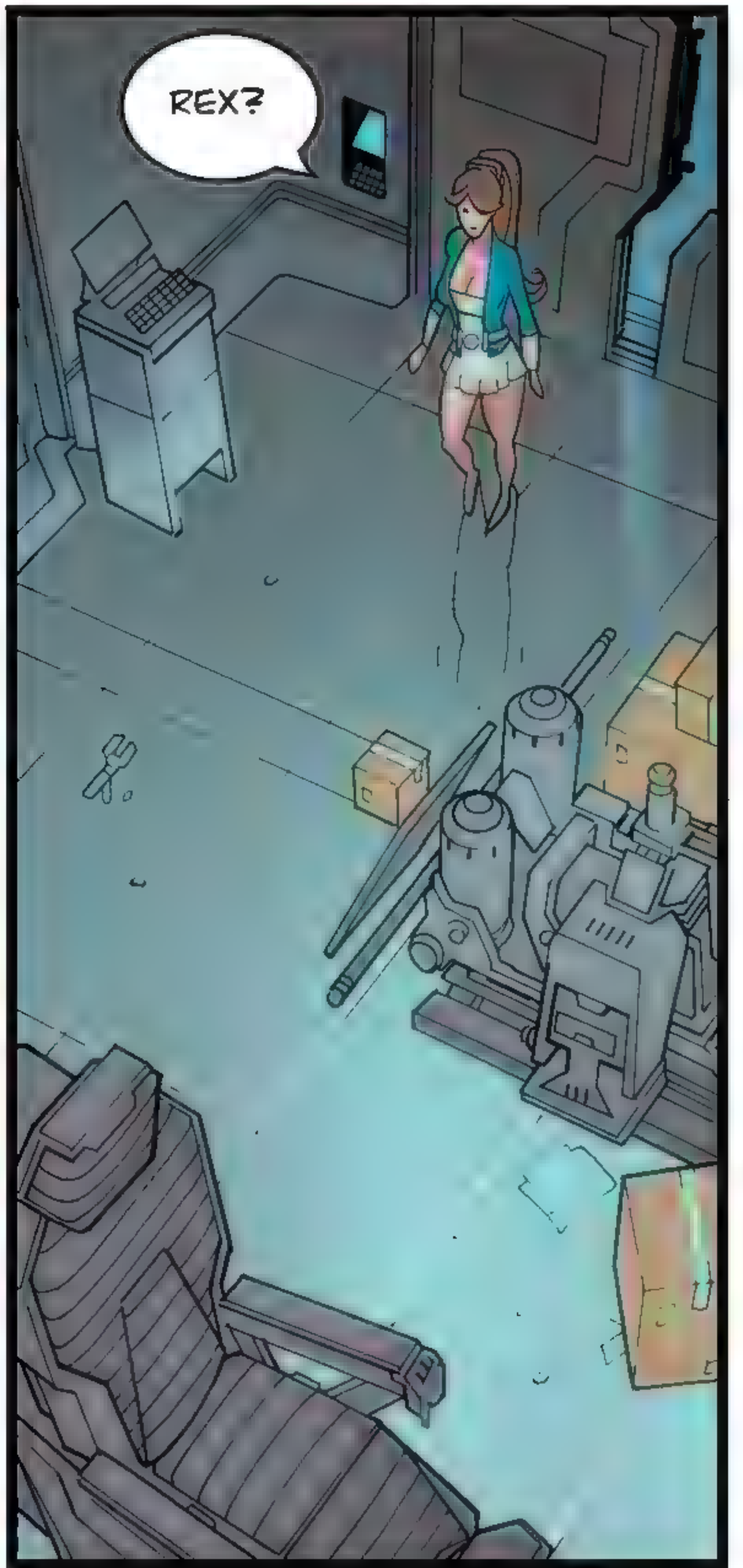
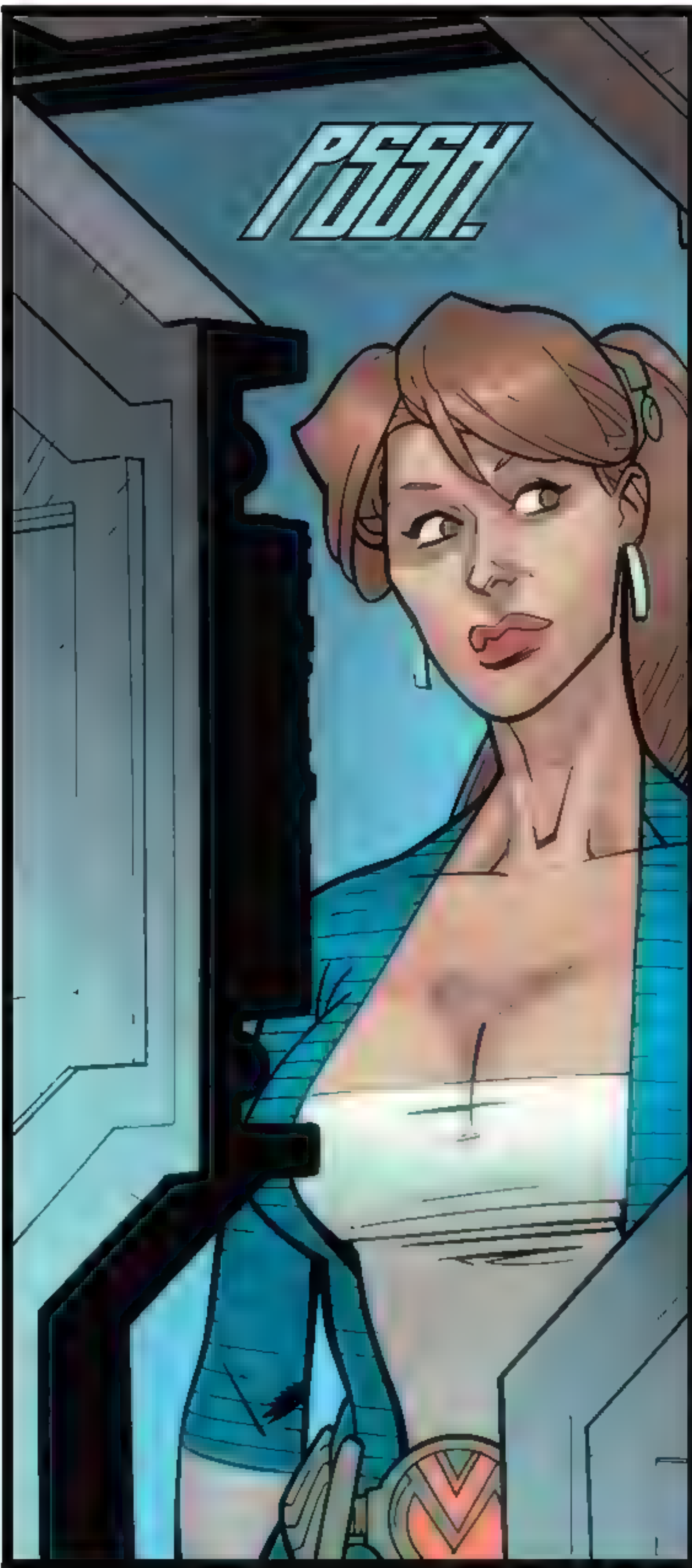


OH, I'LL SEND YOU A LINK. SHE MAKES ALL KINDS OF JEWELRY, BUT I THINK THE EARRINGS ARE THE BEST.

HAVE FUN TONIGHT.

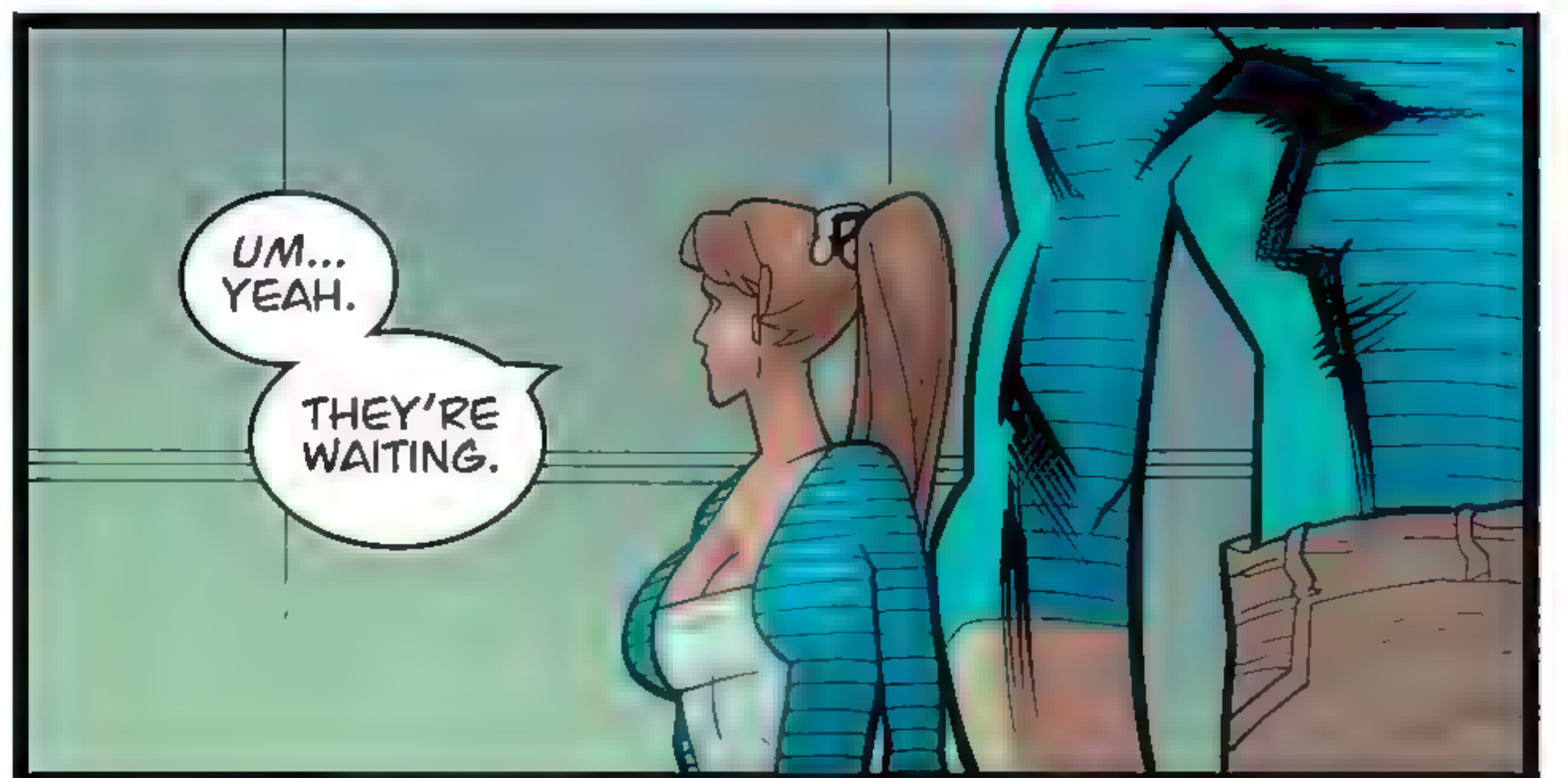
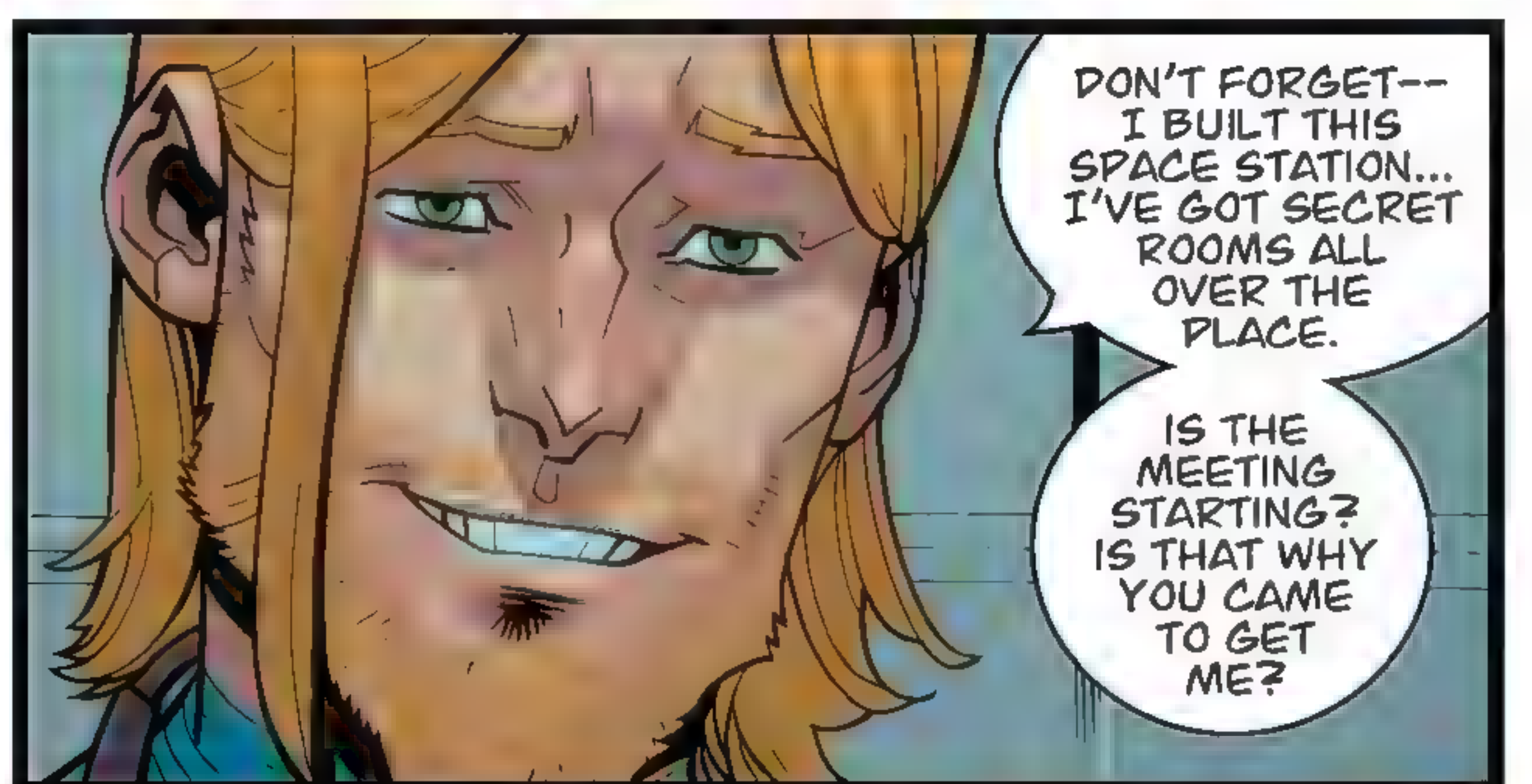
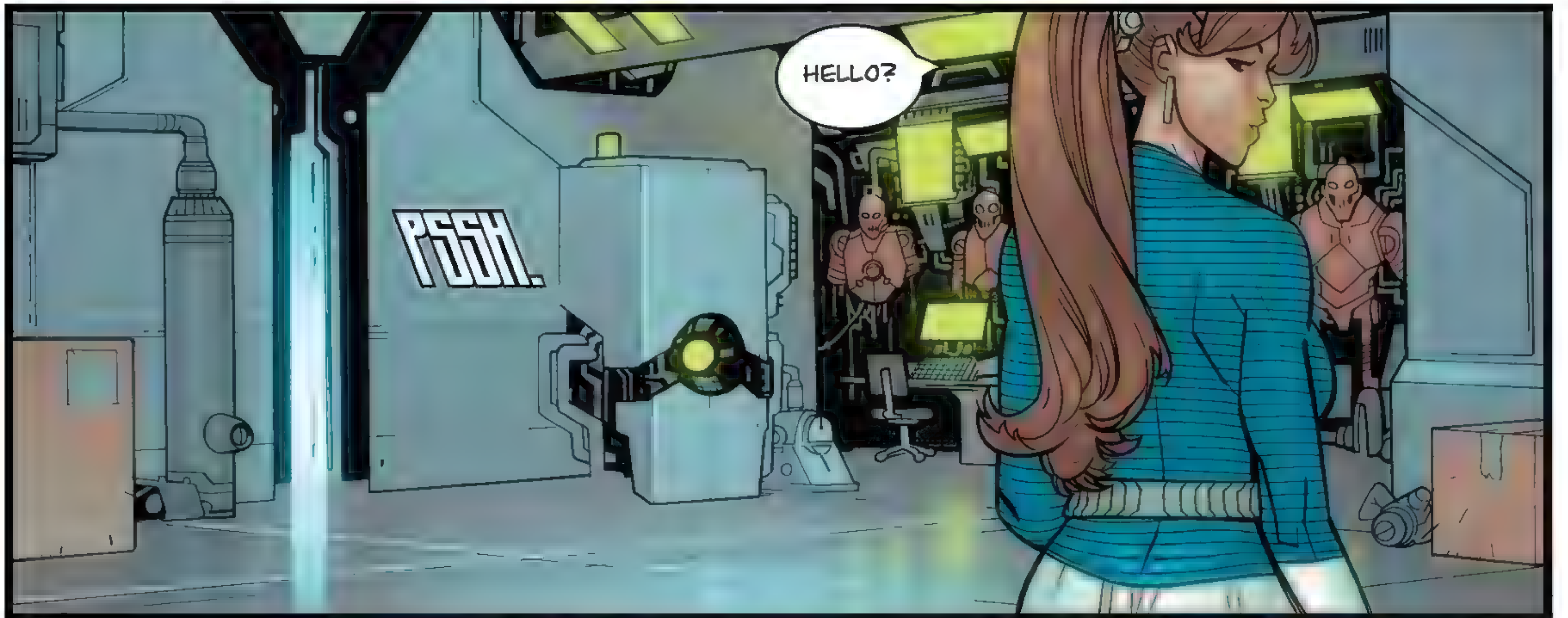
NO GUARANTEES ON THAT. I'VE NEVER SEEN THE GUY IN PERSON, SO... IT'S GOING TO BE AN ADVENTURE. HE KNOWS ABOUT THE WINGS, THOUGH... SO AT LEAST THAT'S OUT OF THE WAY.

SEE YOU IN THE MEETING!



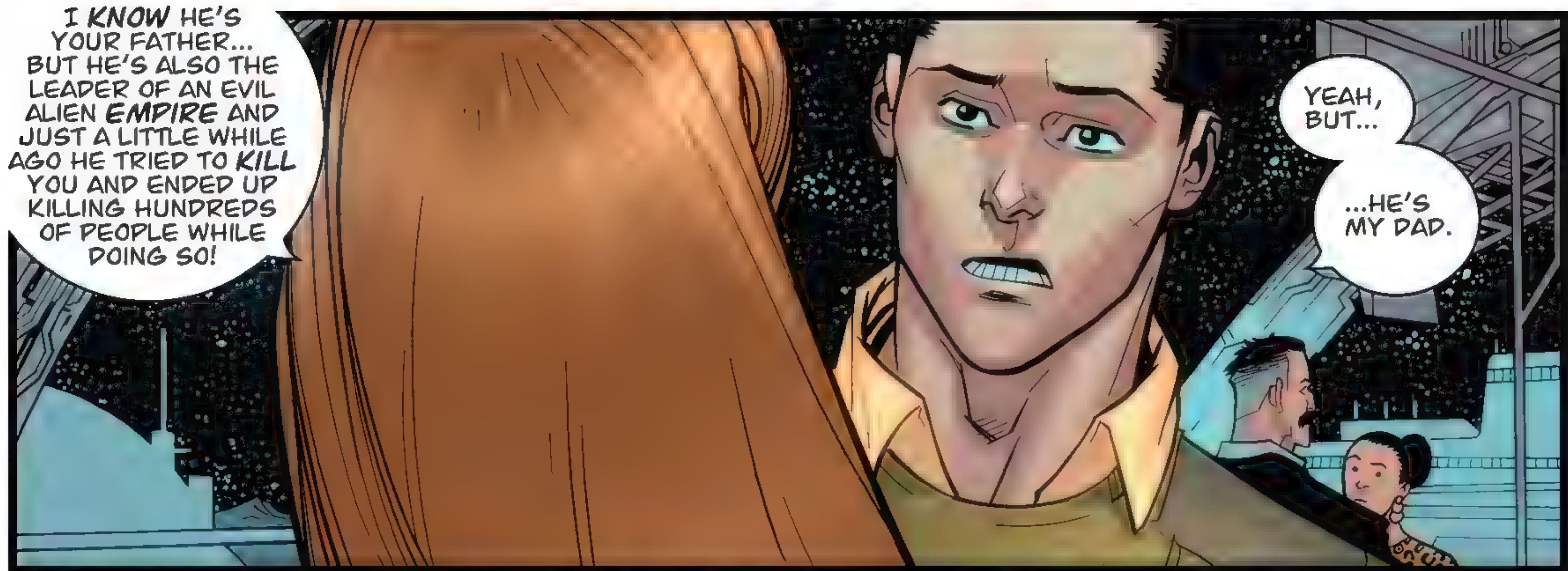
REX?







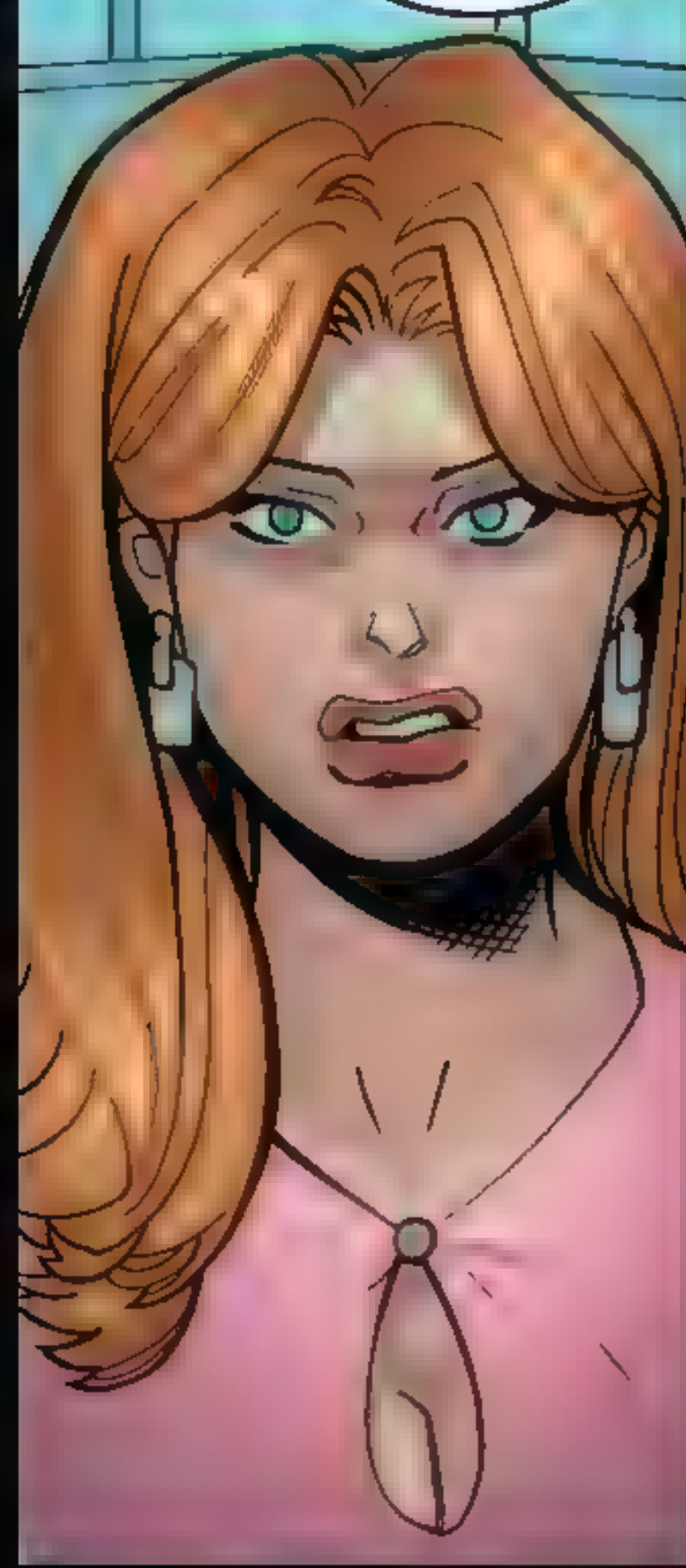
I KNOW HE'S YOUR FATHER... BUT HE'S ALSO THE LEADER OF AN EVIL ALIEN EMPIRE AND JUST A LITTLE WHILE AGO HE TRIED TO KILL YOU AND ENDED UP KILLING HUNDREDS OF PEOPLE WHILE DOING SO!



YEAH, BUT...

...HE'S MY DAD.

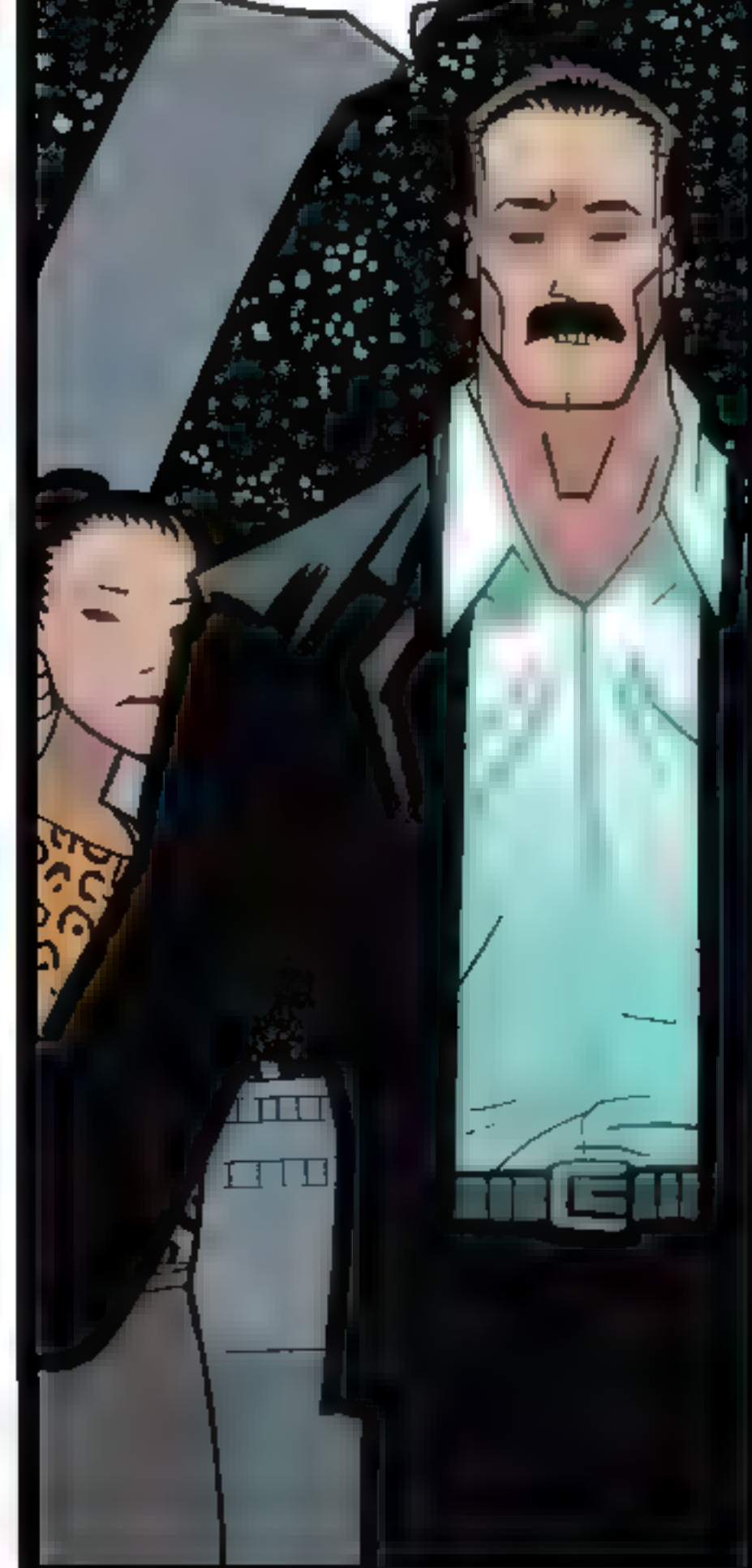
THAT DOESN'T MAKE UP FOR EVERYTHING ELSE, MARK.



NOT FOR ME, AT LEAST.

IF YOU HATED ME FOREVER BECAUSE OF THAT, I WOULD UNDERSTAND.

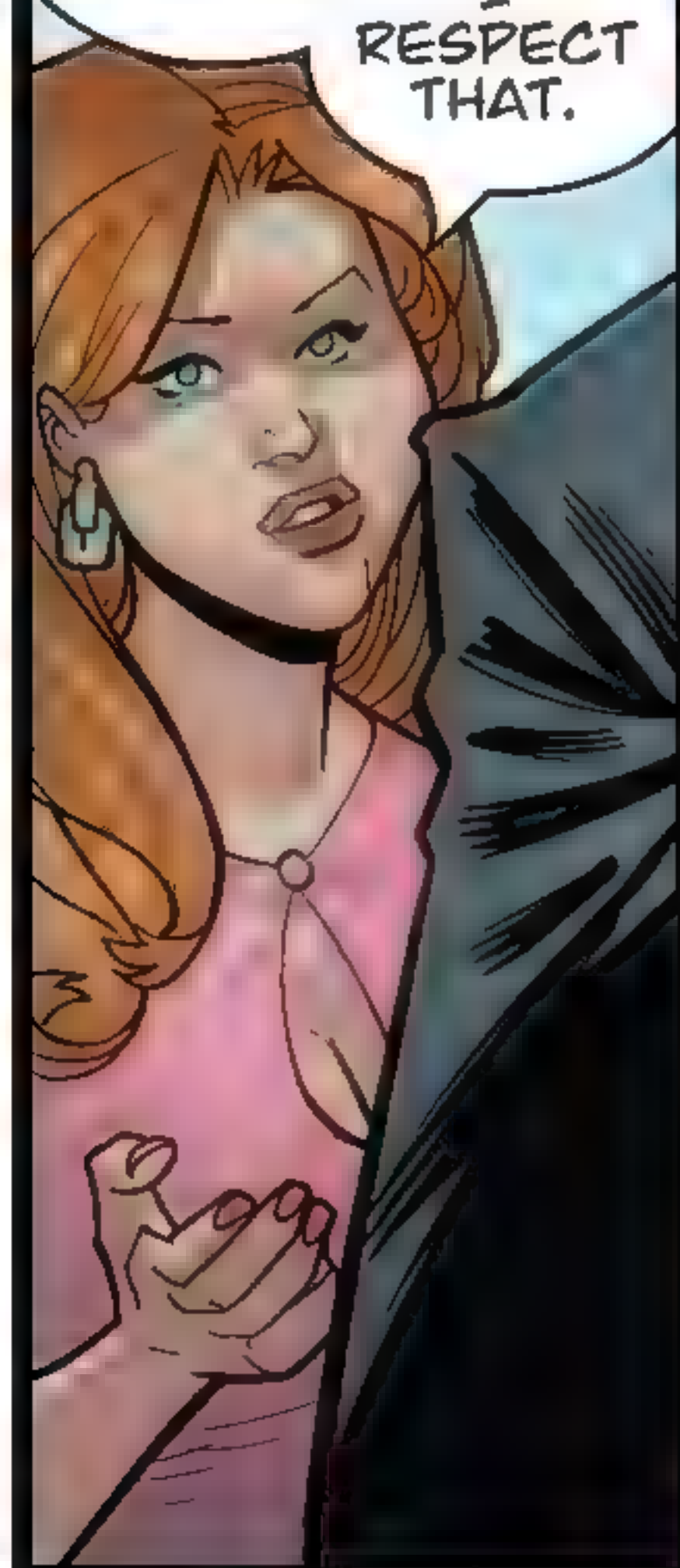
AND IT SHOULDN'T.



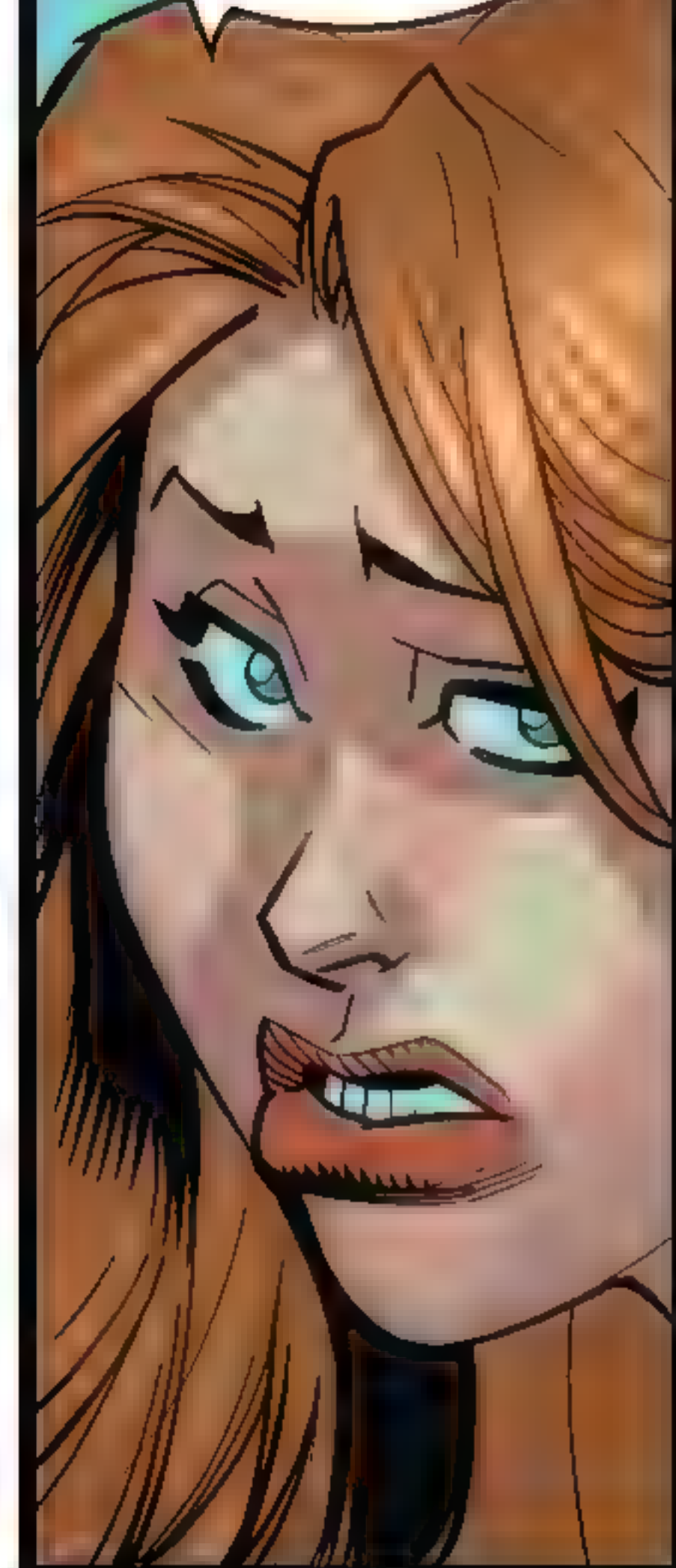
NO, LISTEN. MARK AND I HAVE TALKED ABOUT THIS. YOU'RE AN ALIEN WHO LIVED BY DIFFERENT RULES.

AND YOU'RE TRYING TO CHANGE.

I RESPECT THAT.



BUT FOR ALL I KNOW THERE'S A VILTRUMITE CUSTOM WHERE THE BABY IS PUNCHED OUT OF THE MOTHER AND GROWN IN A TUBE.



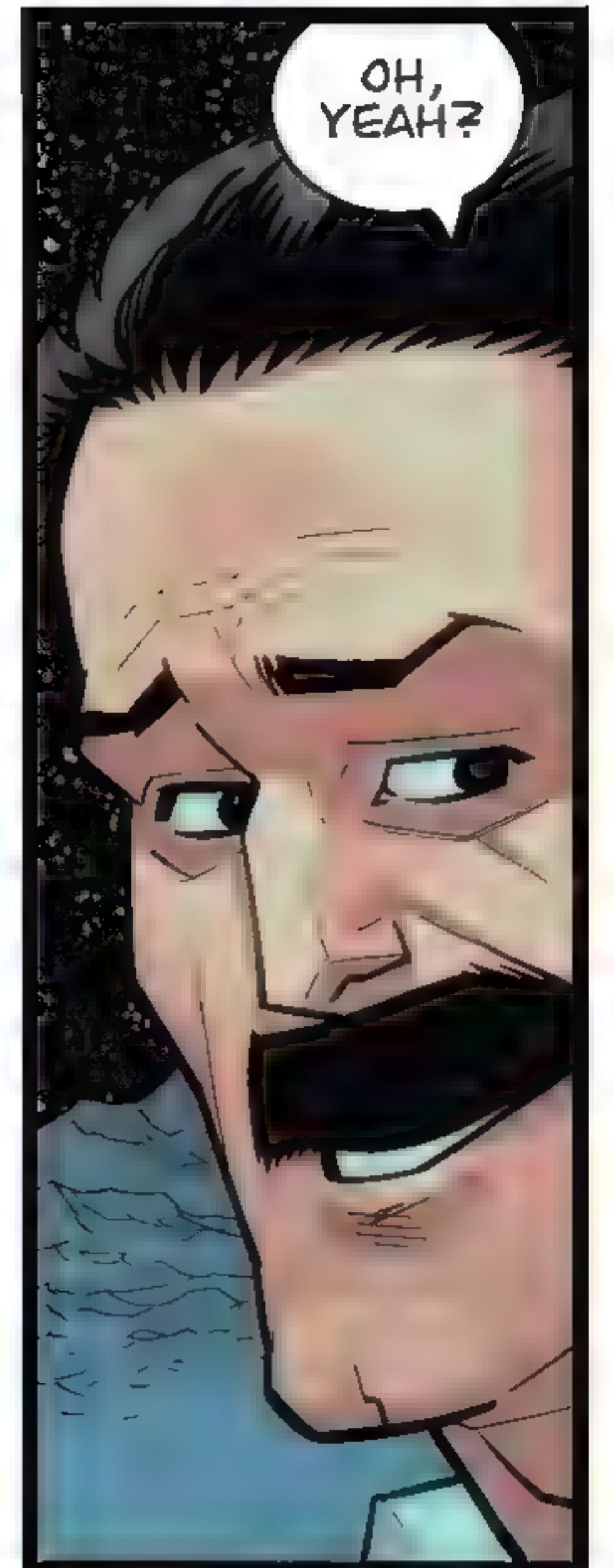
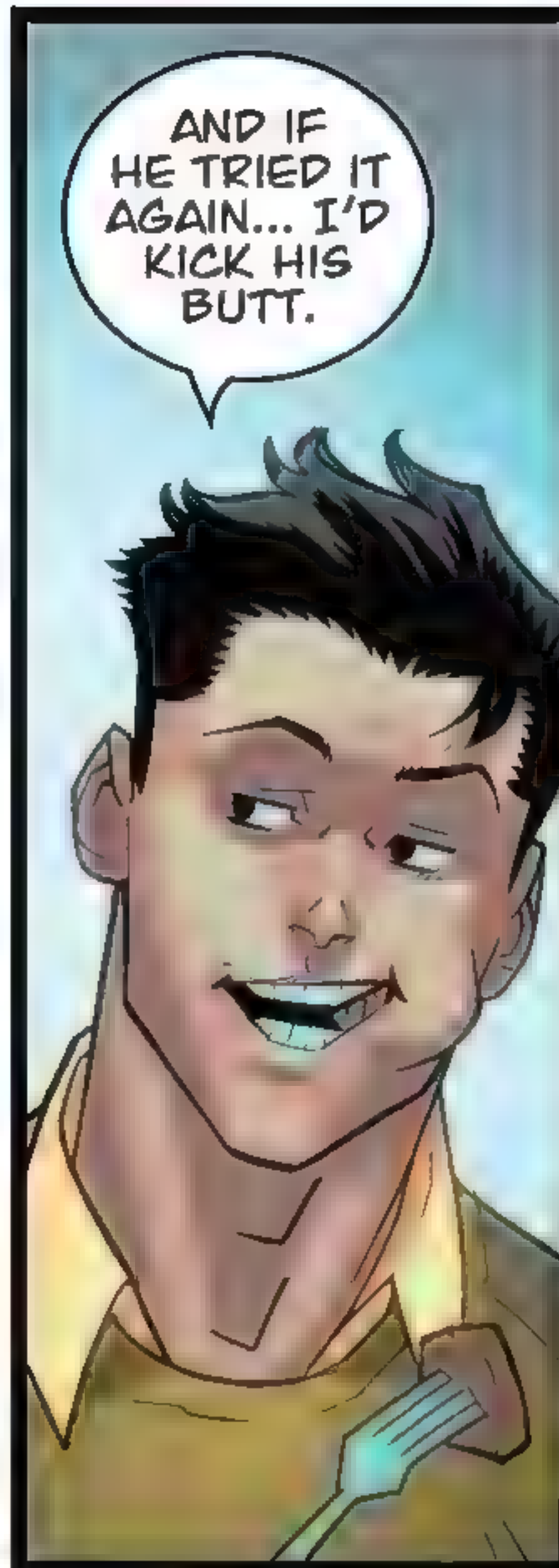
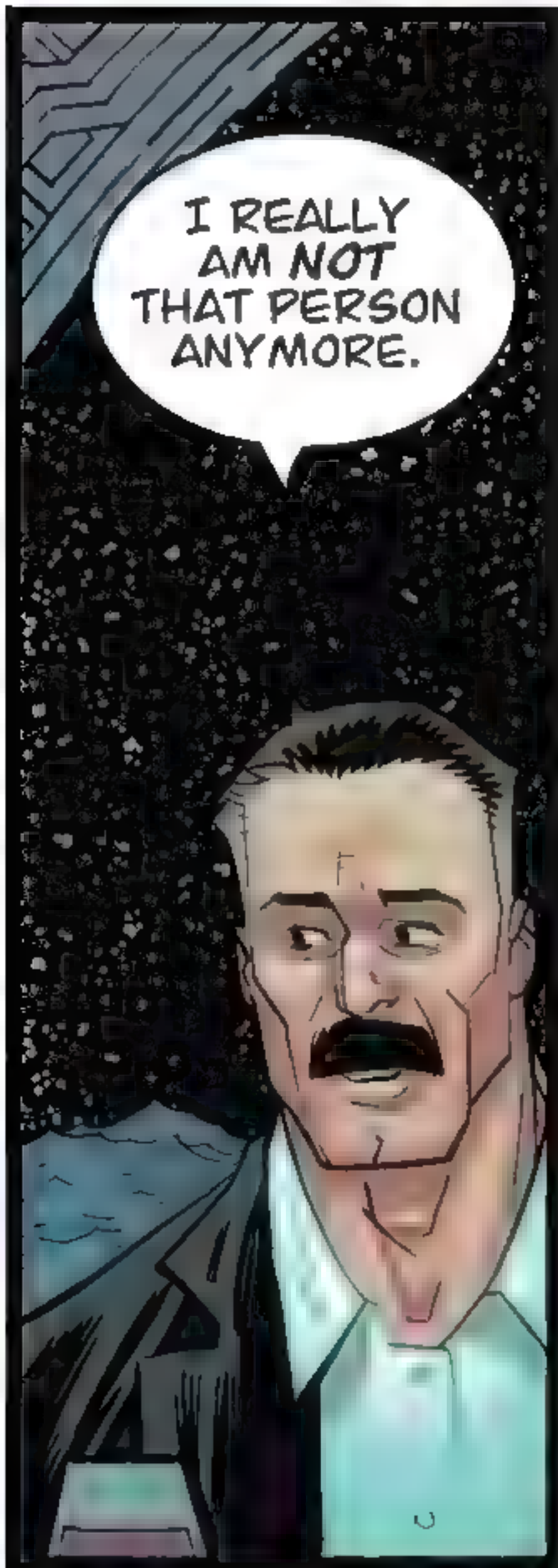
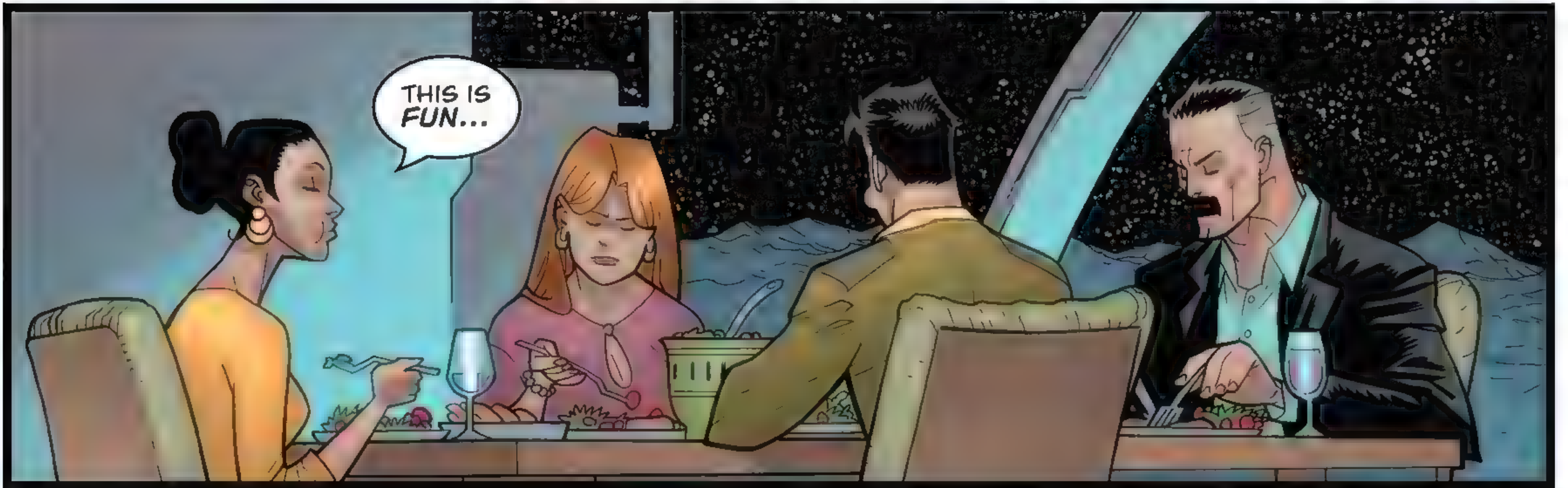
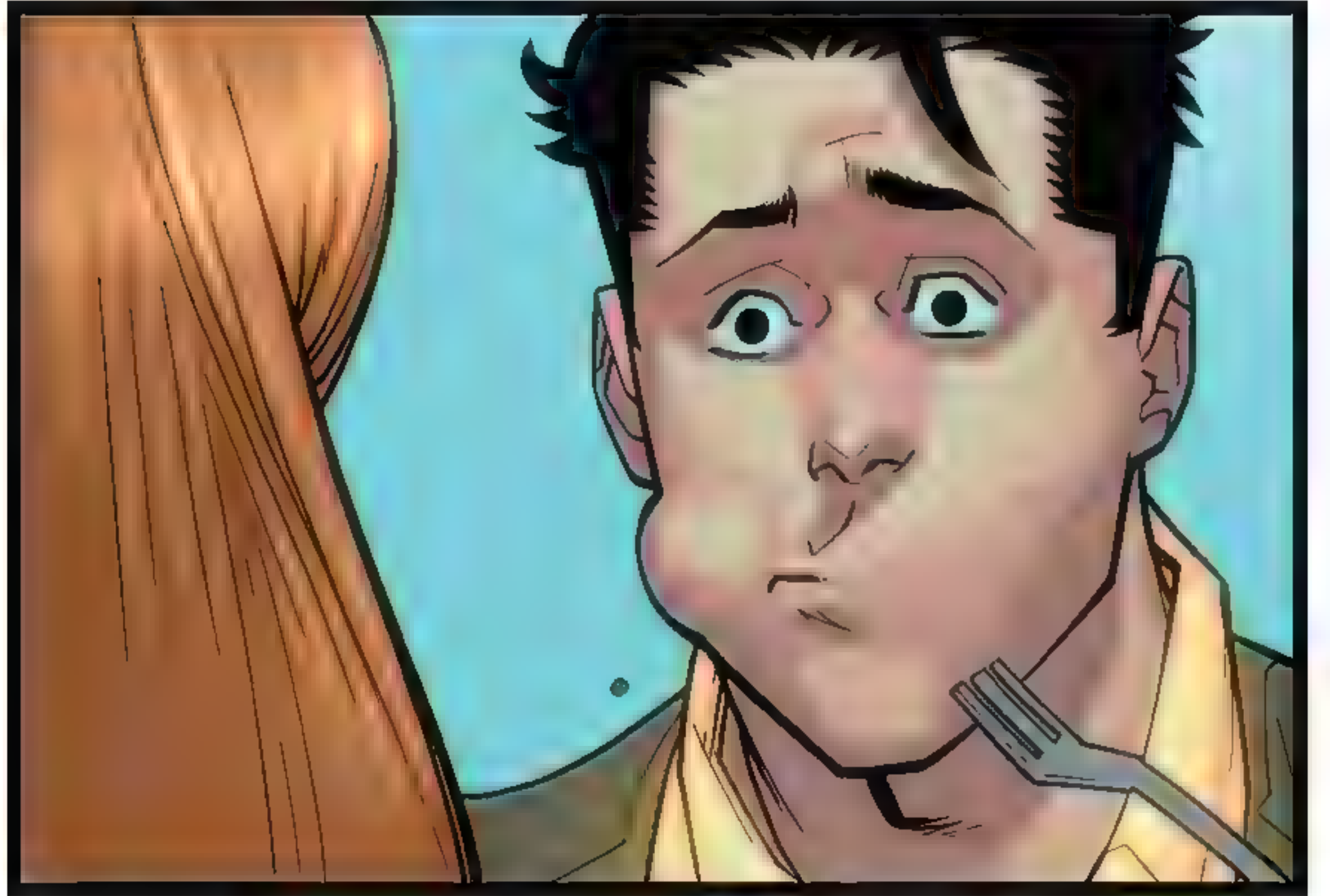
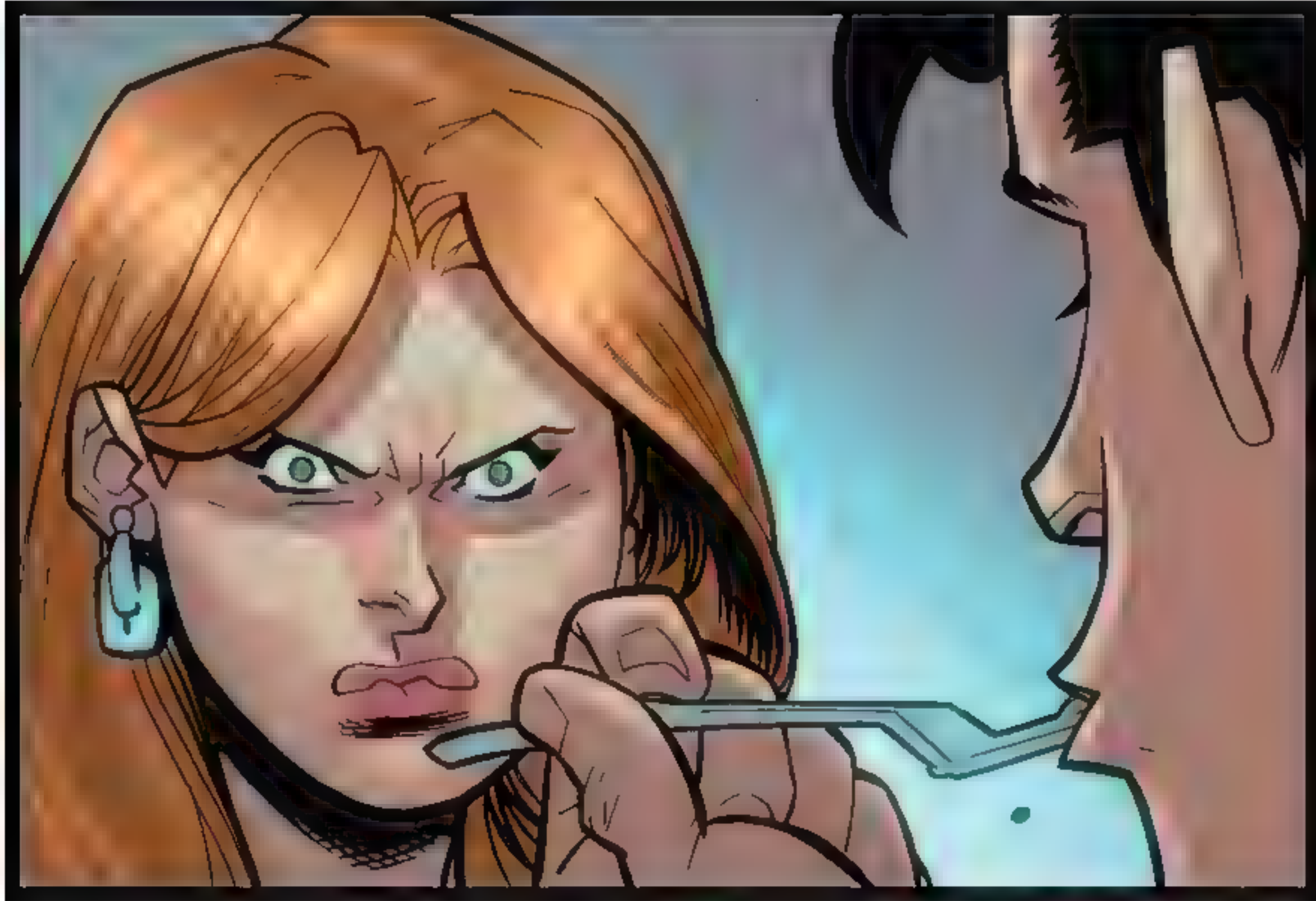
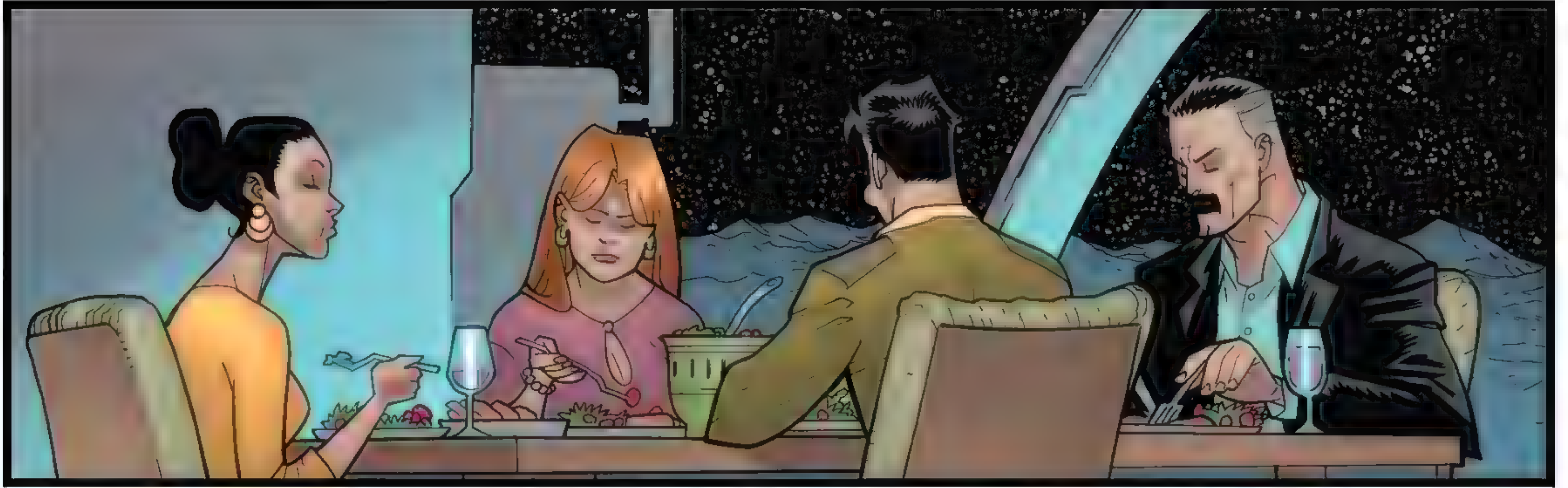
I ASSURE YOU, THERE IS NO SUCH CUSTOM.



WHO'S READY FOR DINNER?













HE REALLY IS A CHANGED MAN. I CAN PROMISE YOU THAT.

OTHERWISE WE WOULDN'T BE TOGETHER.

I KNOW... IT'S NOT LIKE THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE SEEN HIM SINCE... Y'KNOW.

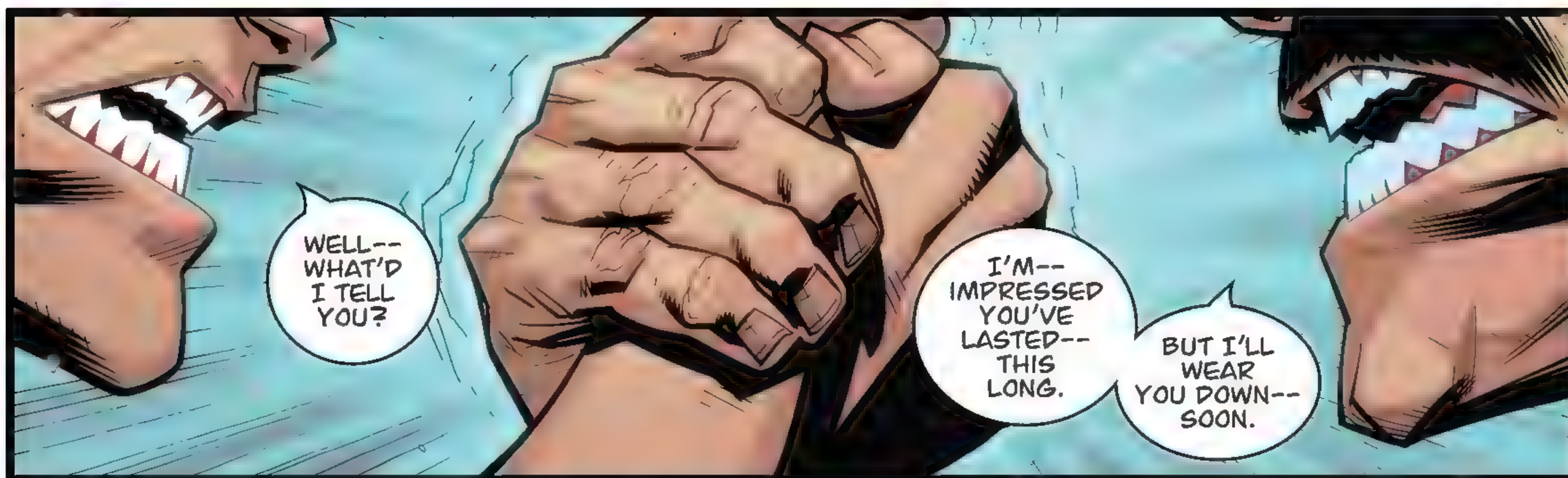
BUT THIS IS MY CHILD. I FEEL LIKE I HAVE TO BE EXTRA CAREFUL... CERTAIN... ABSOLUTELY CERTAIN.

YOU UNDERSTAND?

I COMPLETELY UNDERSTAND.



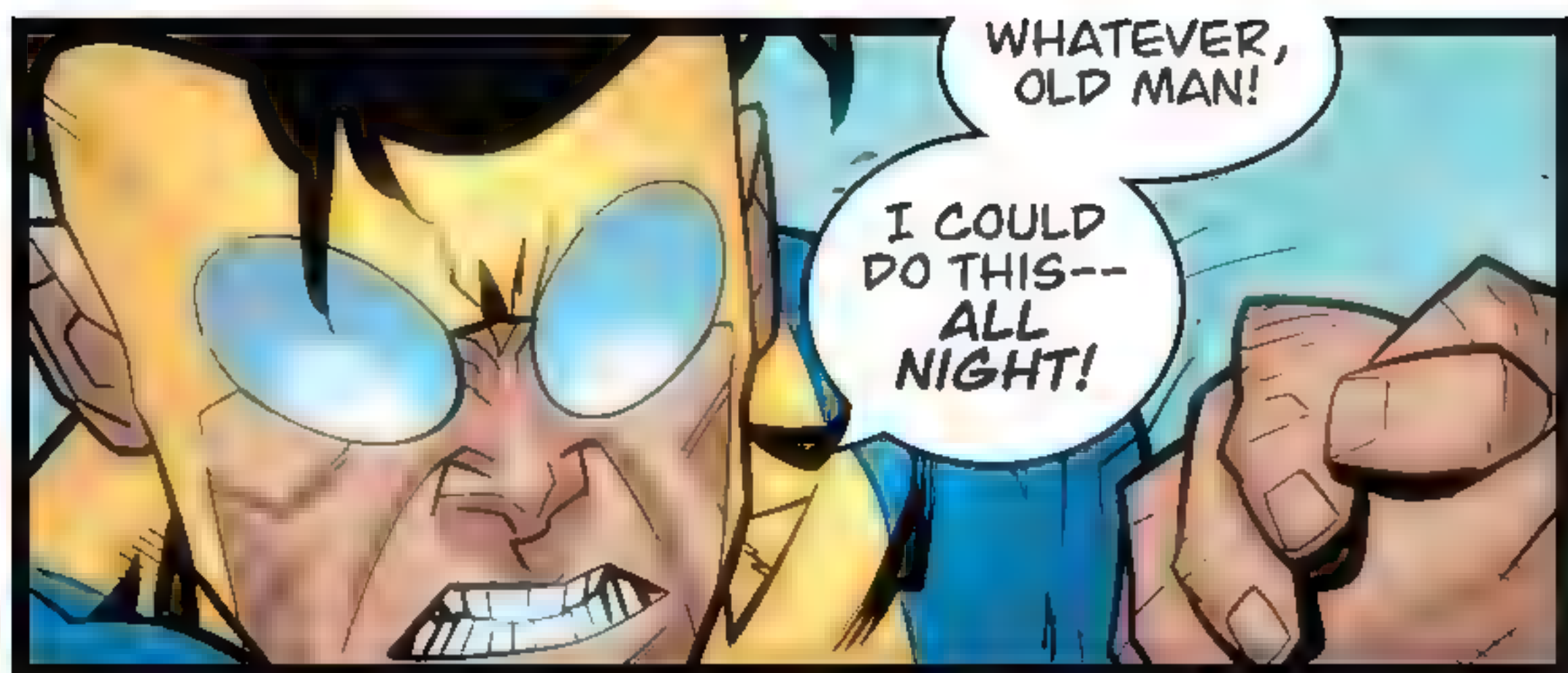




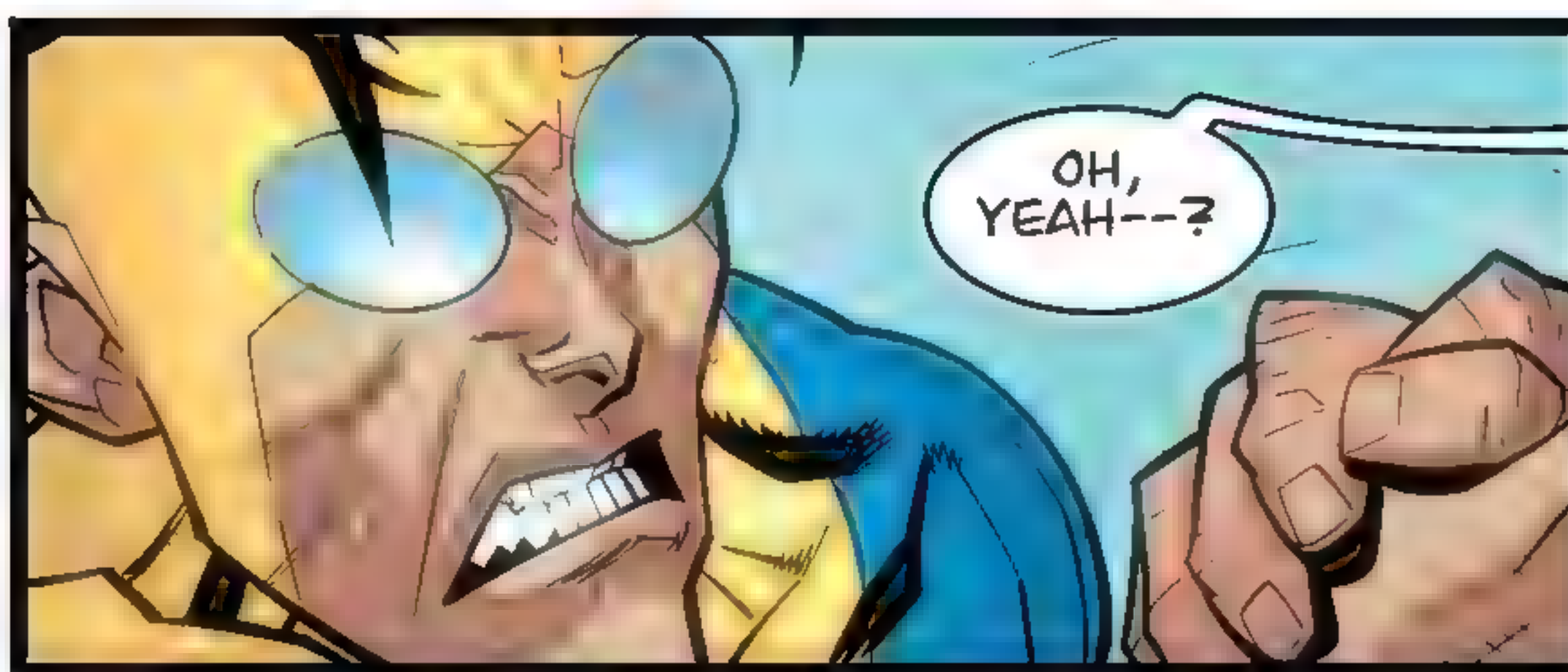
WELL--  
WHAT'D  
I TELL  
YOU?

I'M--  
IMPRESSED  
YOU'VE  
LASTED--  
THIS  
LONG.

BUT I'LL  
WEAR  
YOU DOWN--  
SOON.



WHATEVER,  
OLD MAN!  
  
I COULD  
DO THIS--  
ALL  
NIGHT!



OH,  
YEAH--?



THEN  
LET'S SEE  
WHAT  
YOU'VE GOT--  
KID!

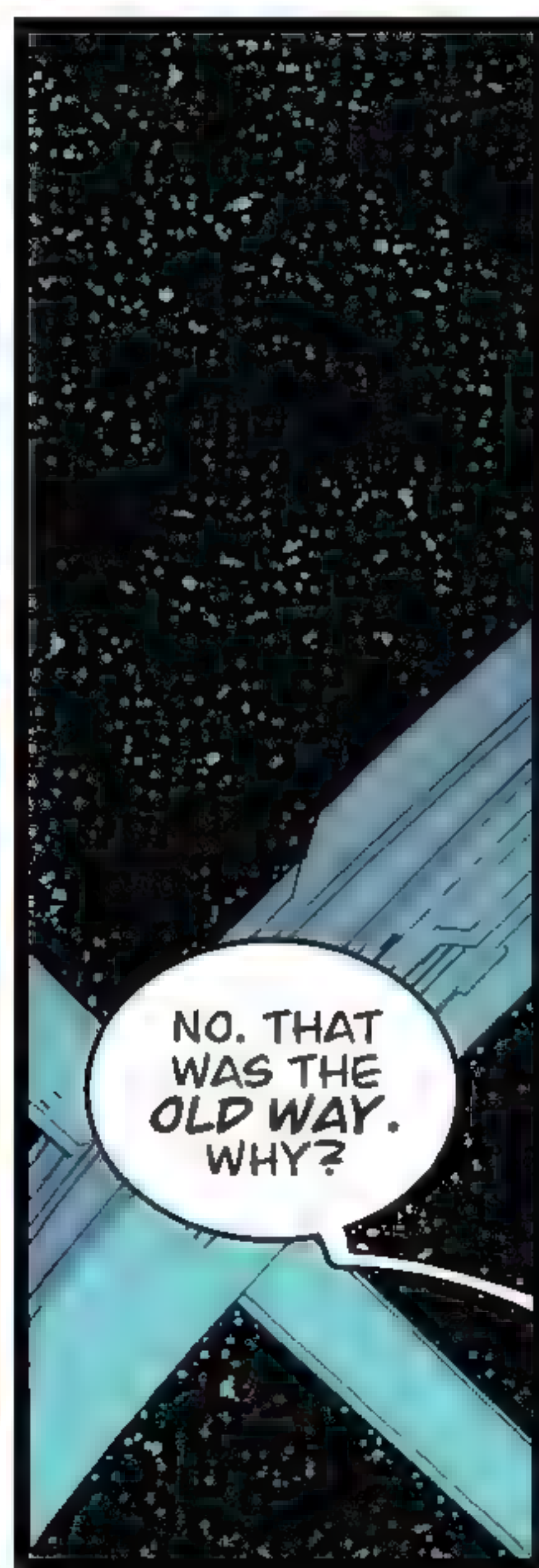


OH, I  
WILL--  
  
YOU'LL  
SEE HOW  
STRONG--

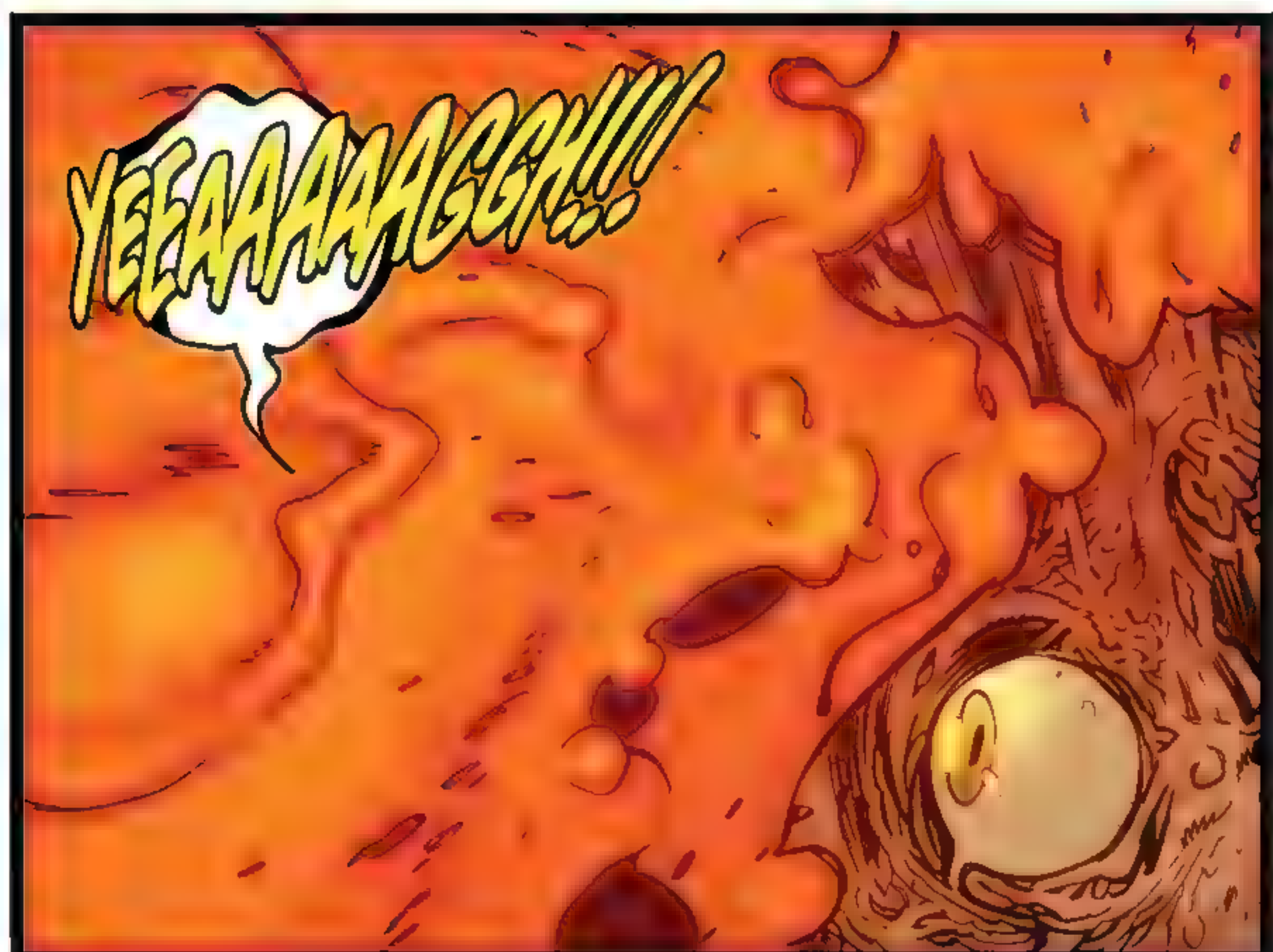
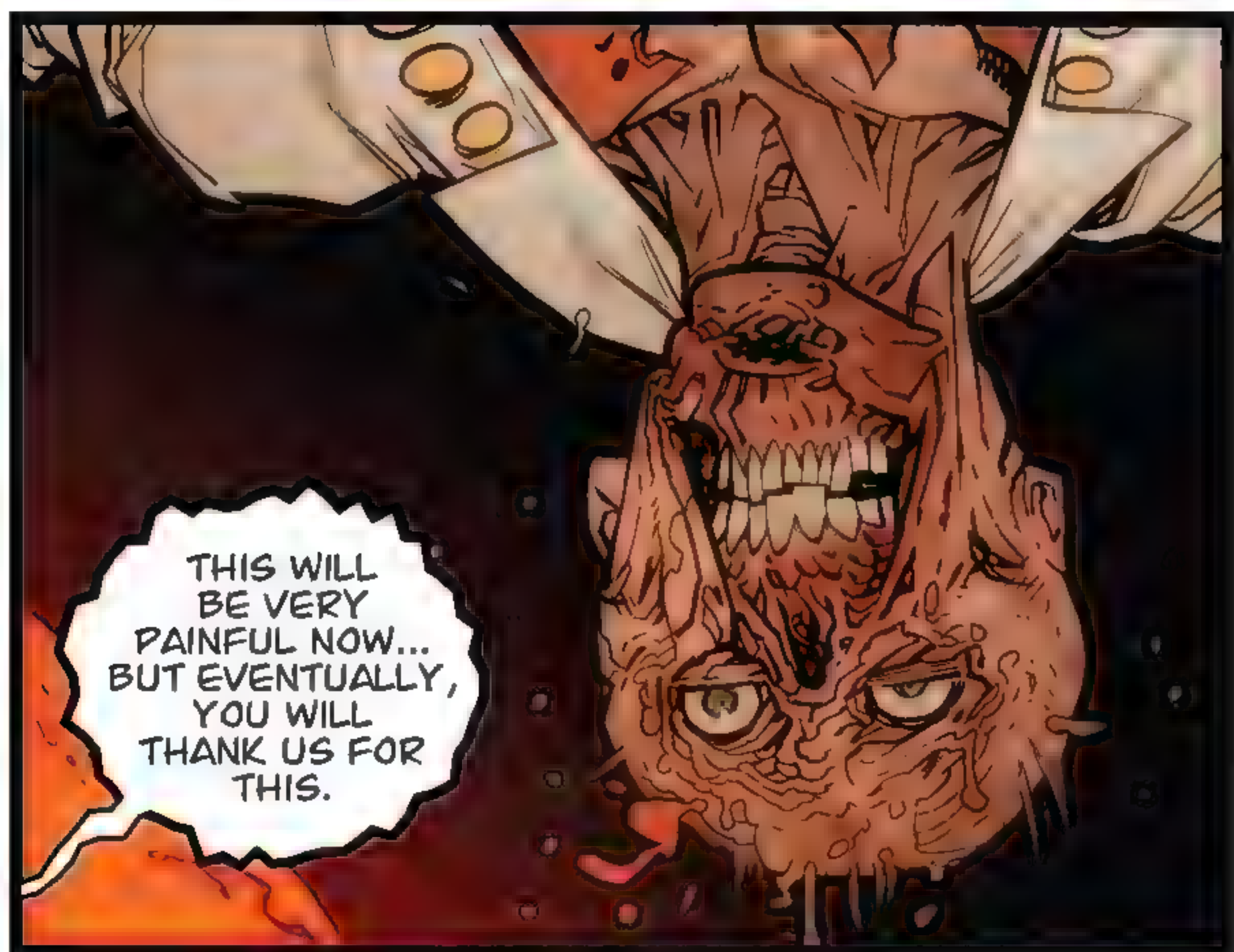


I AM...

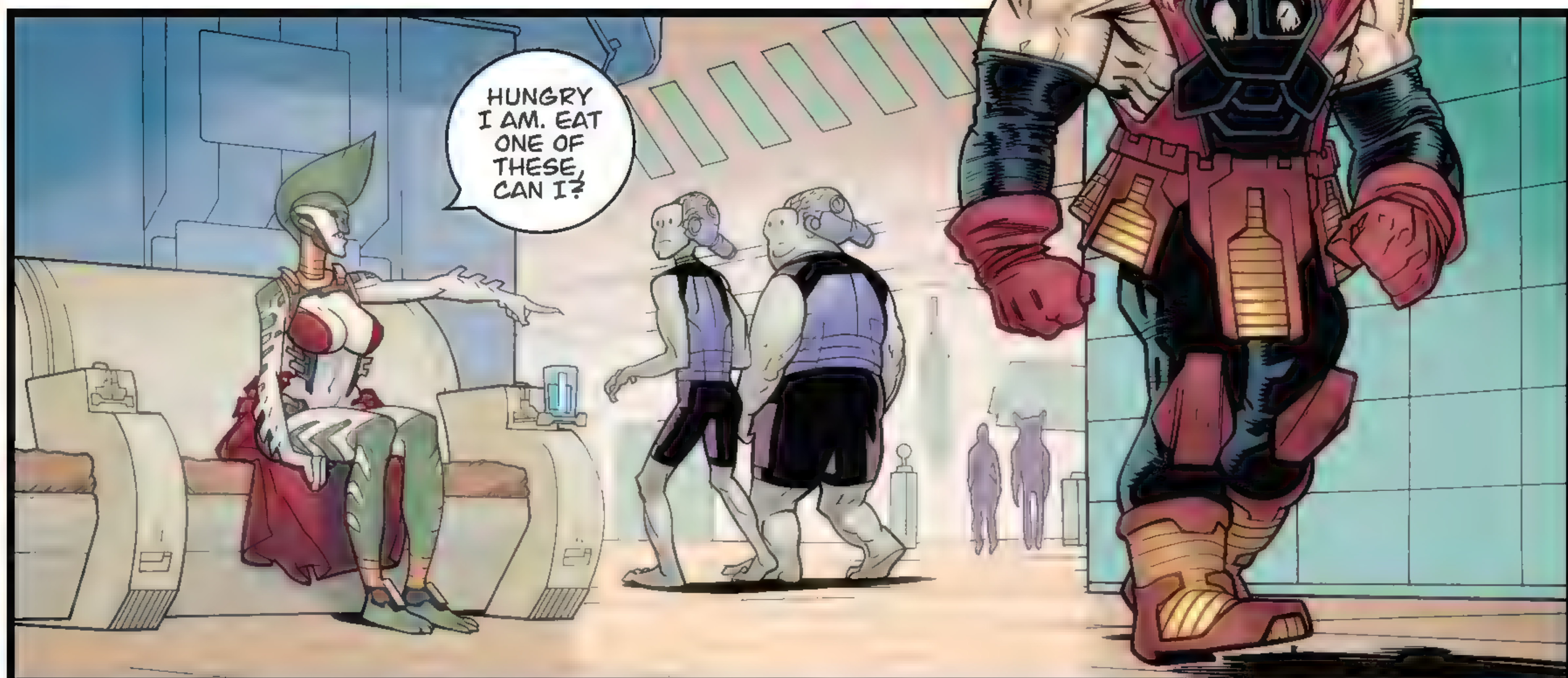
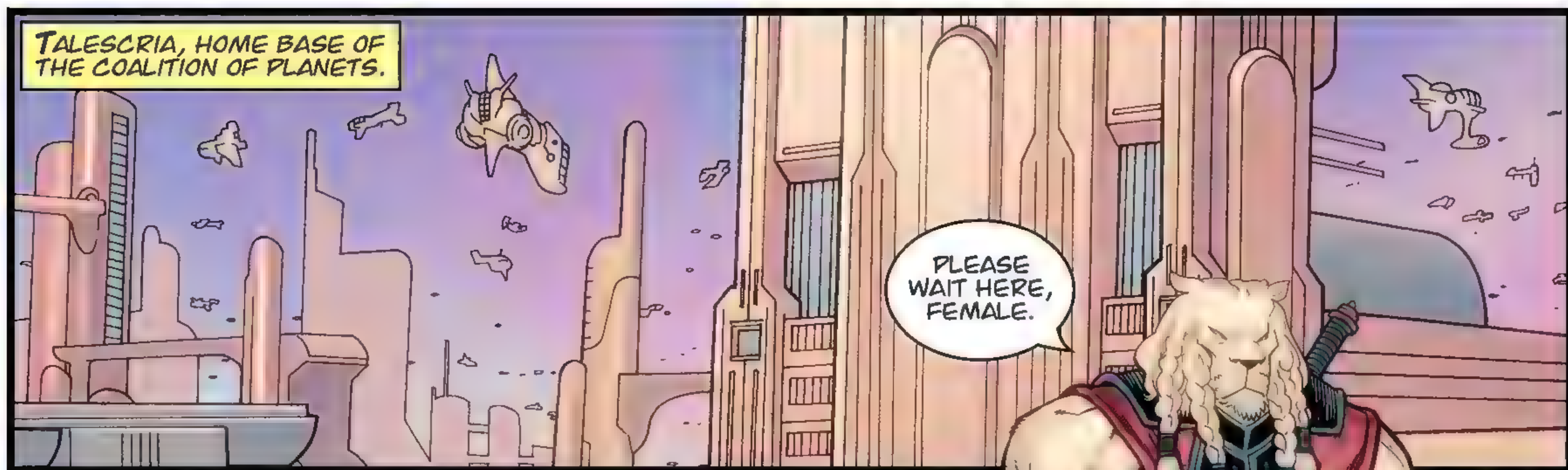




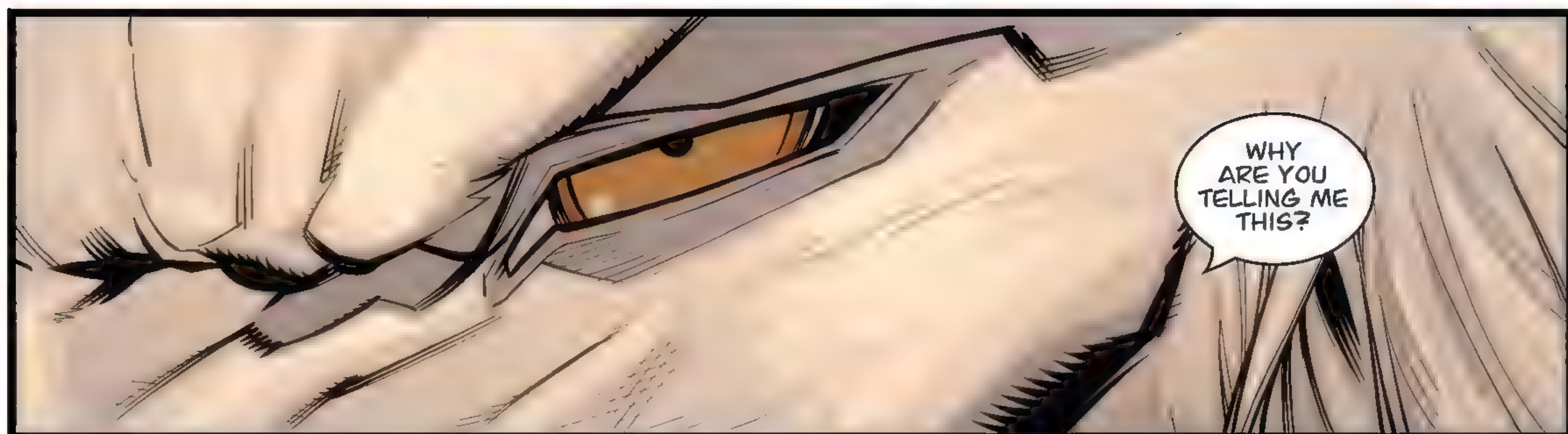










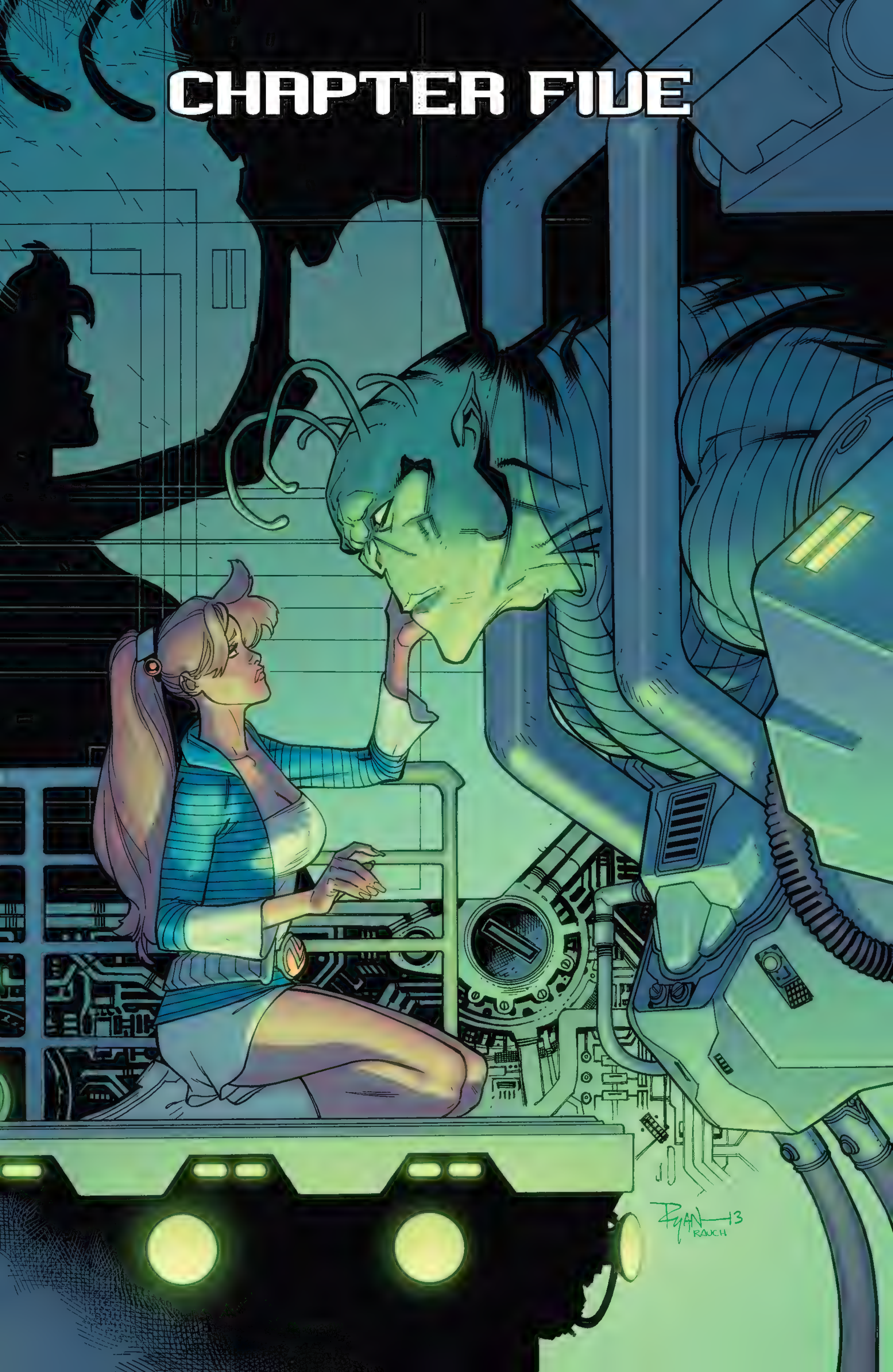








# CHAPTER FIVE



Ryan 13  
RAUCH





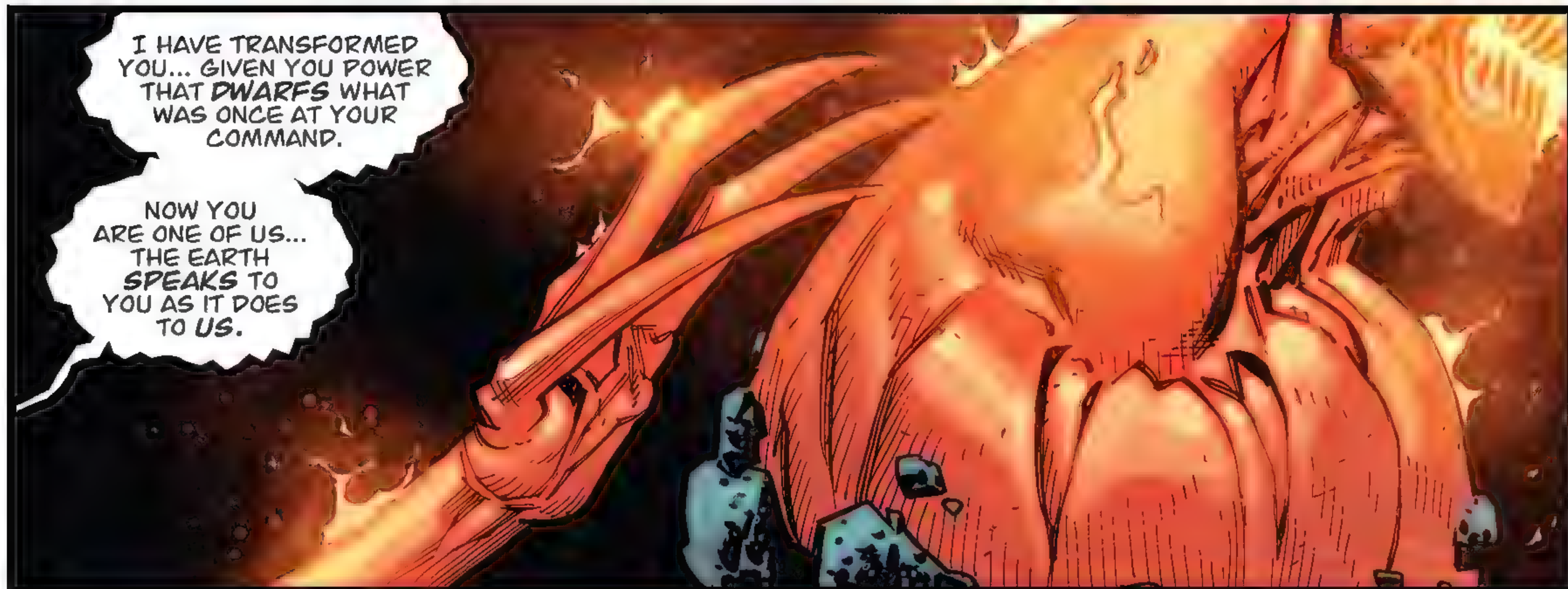
I HAVE  
WATCHED  
YOU FROM AFAR  
FOR A VERY  
LONG TIME...  
**DOCTOR  
SEISMIC.**

YOU  
**CALLED** TO US,  
WITH YOUR ABILITY  
TO MOVE THE EARTH.  
YOU SPOKE TO THE  
MAGMANITES, A  
SLAVE RACE  
CREATED BY MY  
PEOPLE.



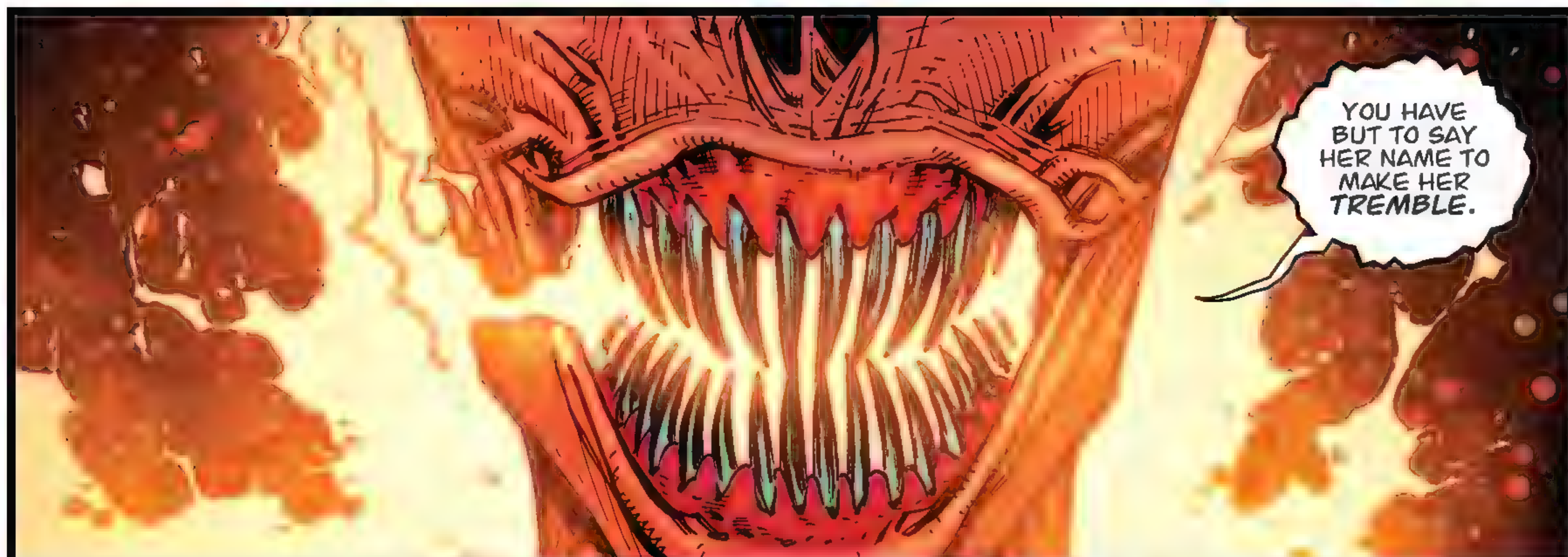
REMARKABLE  
DEVICES YOU HAVE  
CONSTRUCTED...  
THAT ALLOW YOU TO  
SHAKE THE GROUND  
BENEATH YOUR  
FEET.

BUT ULTIMATELY  
**UNNECESSARY.**



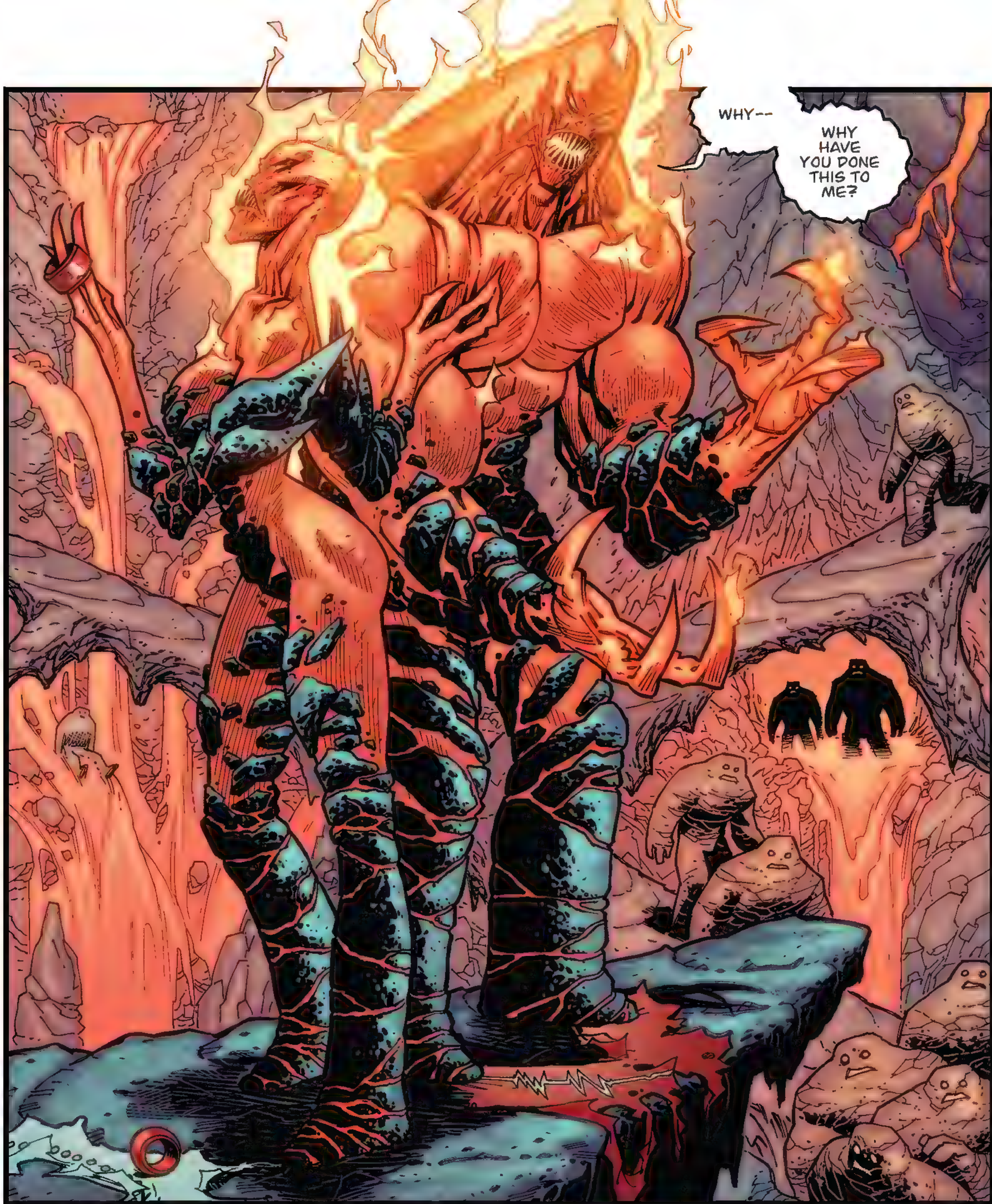
I HAVE TRANSFORMED  
YOU... GIVEN YOU POWER  
THAT **DWARFS** WHAT  
WAS ONCE AT YOUR  
COMMAND.

NOW YOU  
ARE ONE OF US...  
THE EARTH  
**SPEAKS** TO  
YOU AS IT DOES  
TO US.



YOU HAVE  
BUT TO SAY  
HER NAME TO  
MAKE HER  
**TREMBLE.**





WHY--

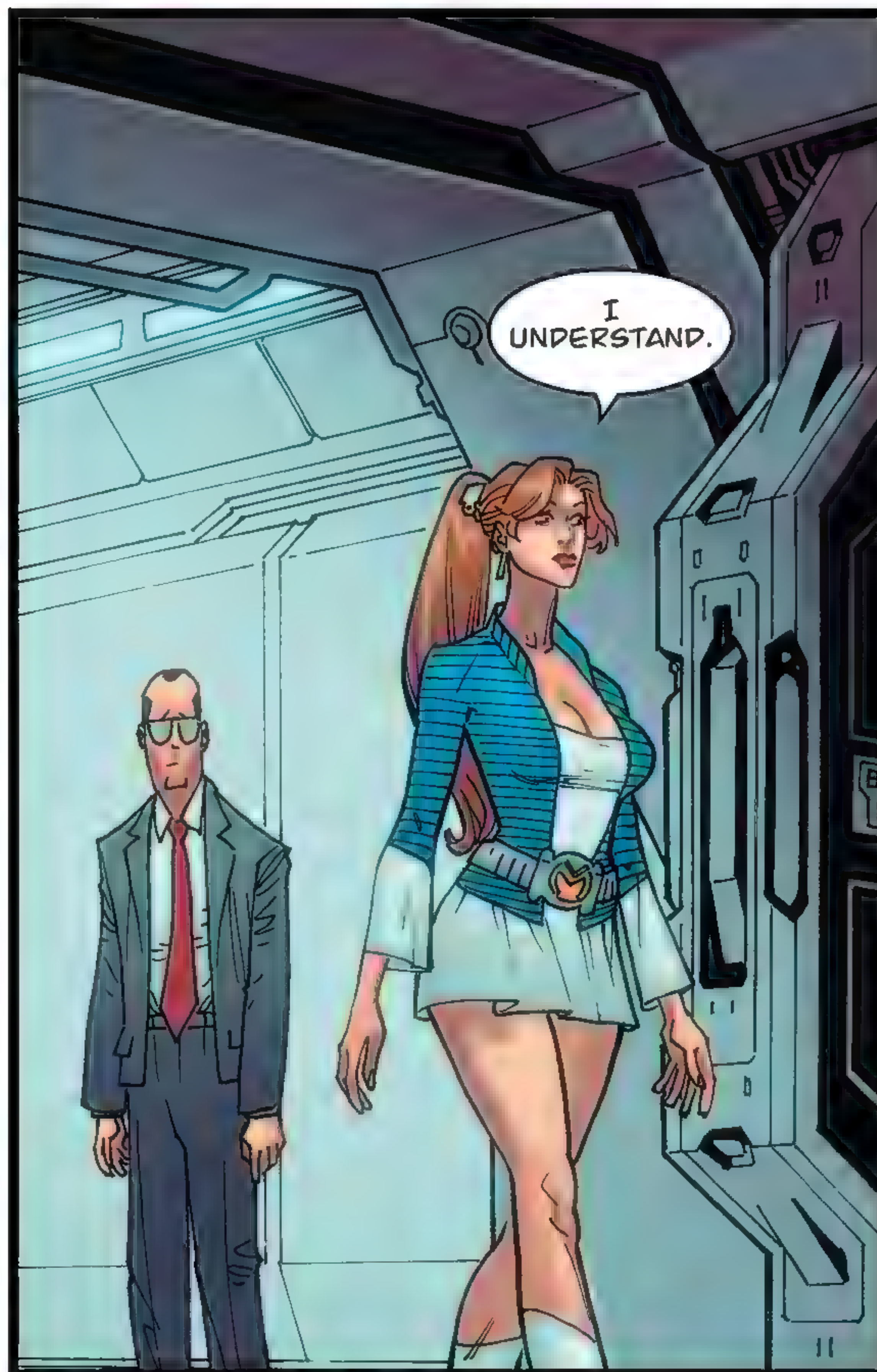
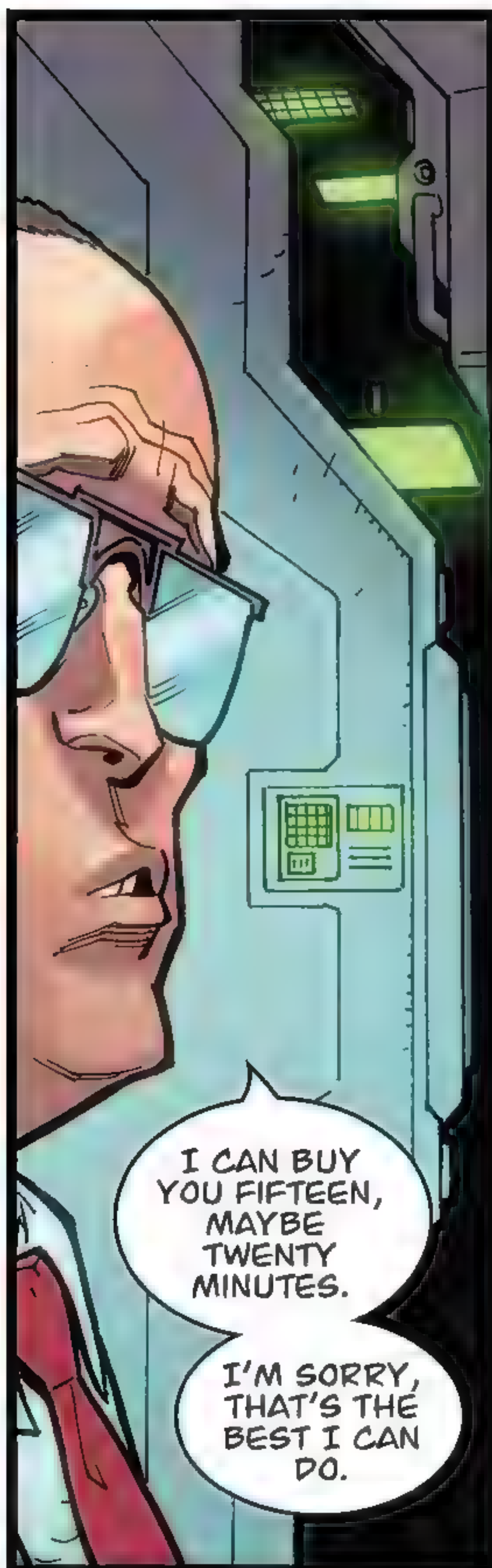
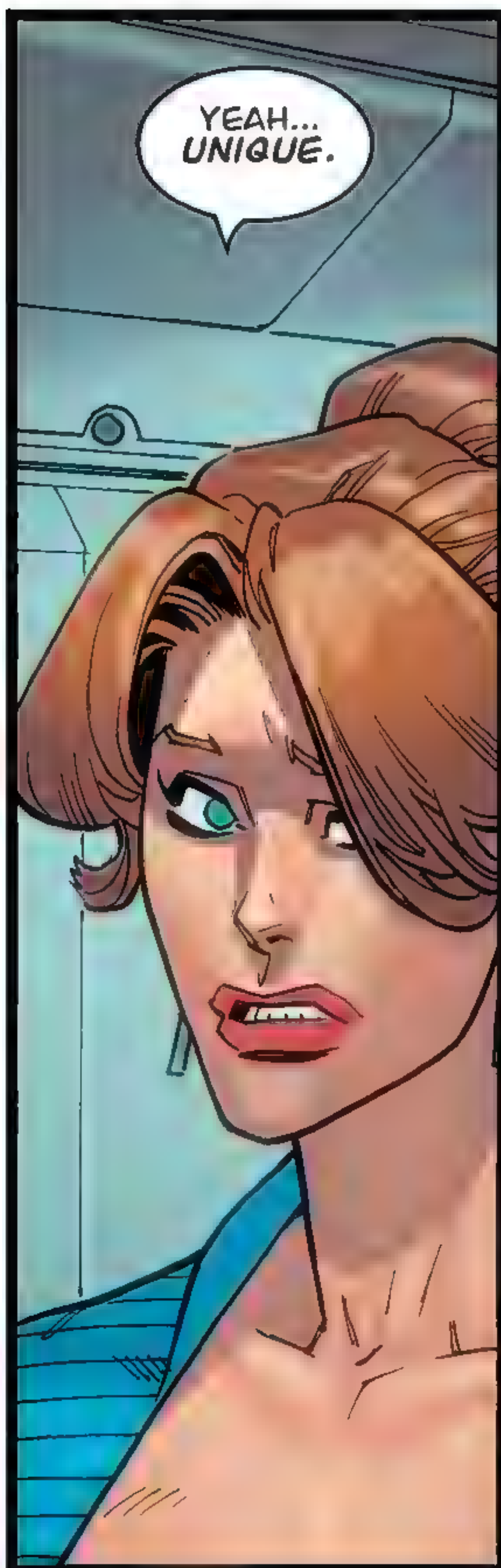
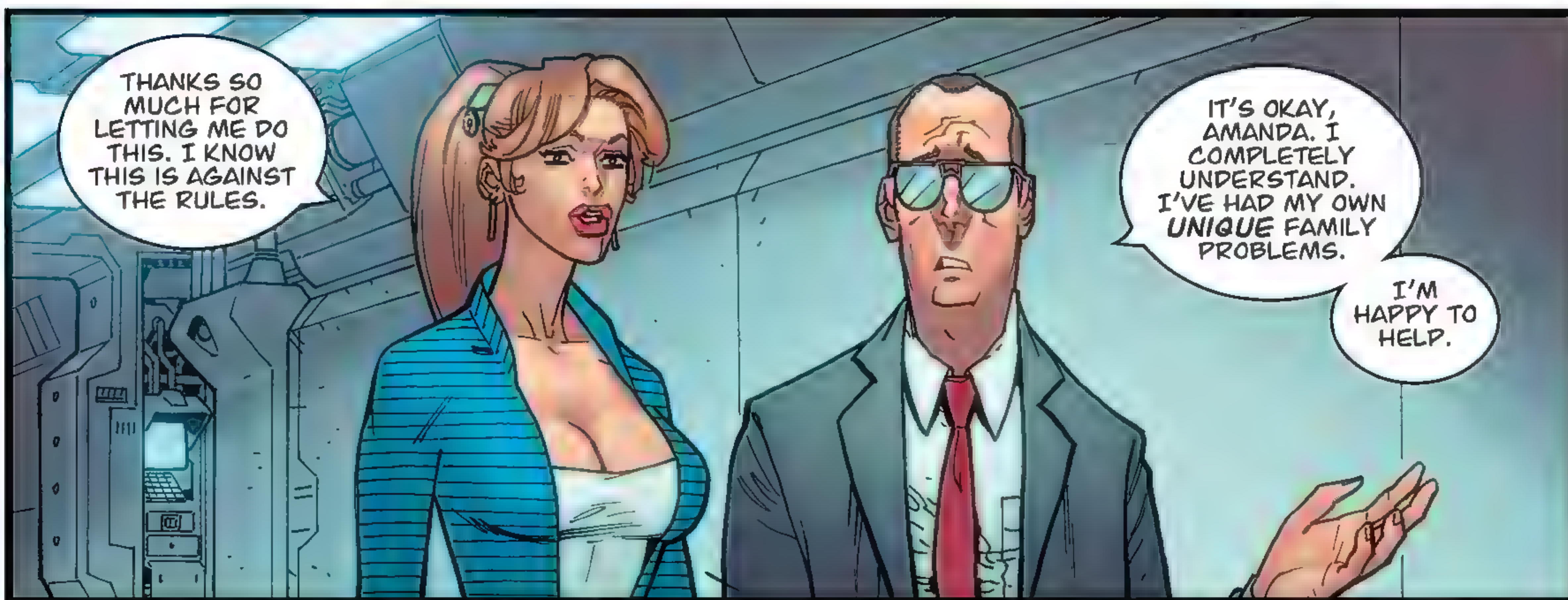
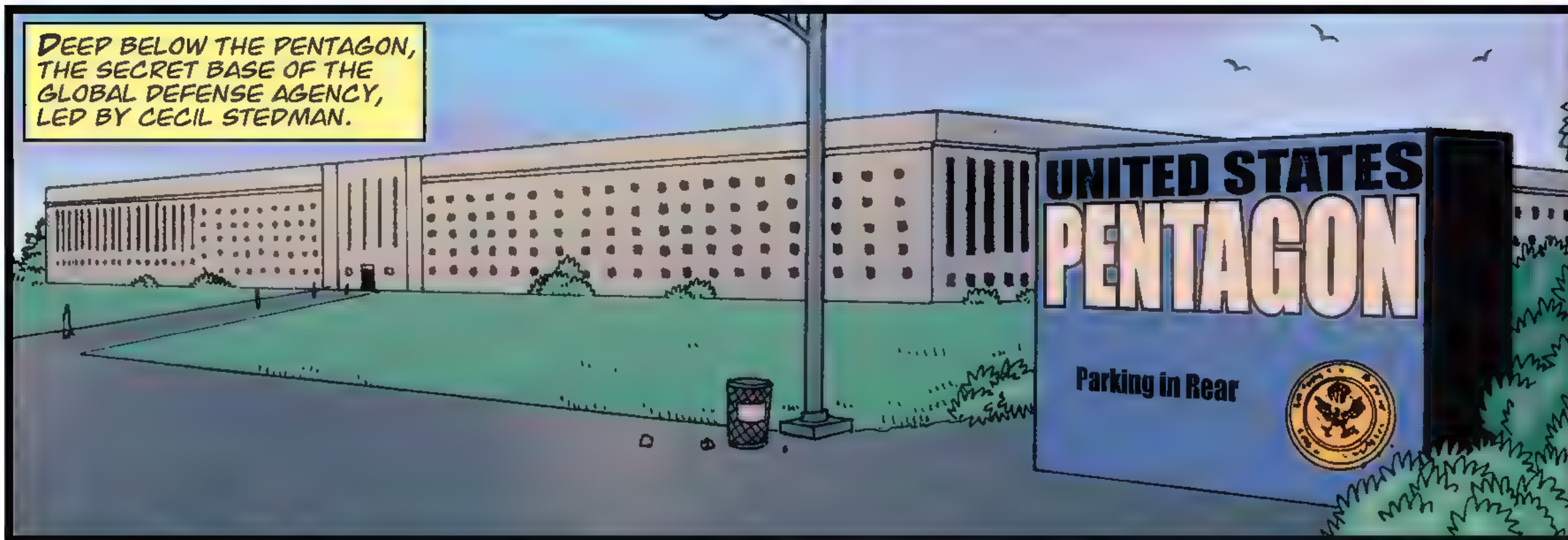
WHY  
HAVE  
YOU DONE  
THIS TO  
ME?

LONG HAVE  
I RULED THESE  
CAVERNS, BUT  
NOW I TURN MY  
ATTENTION TO THE  
SURFACE WORLD...  
AND YOU WILL  
BE MY BRIDGE  
TO THAT  
WORLD.

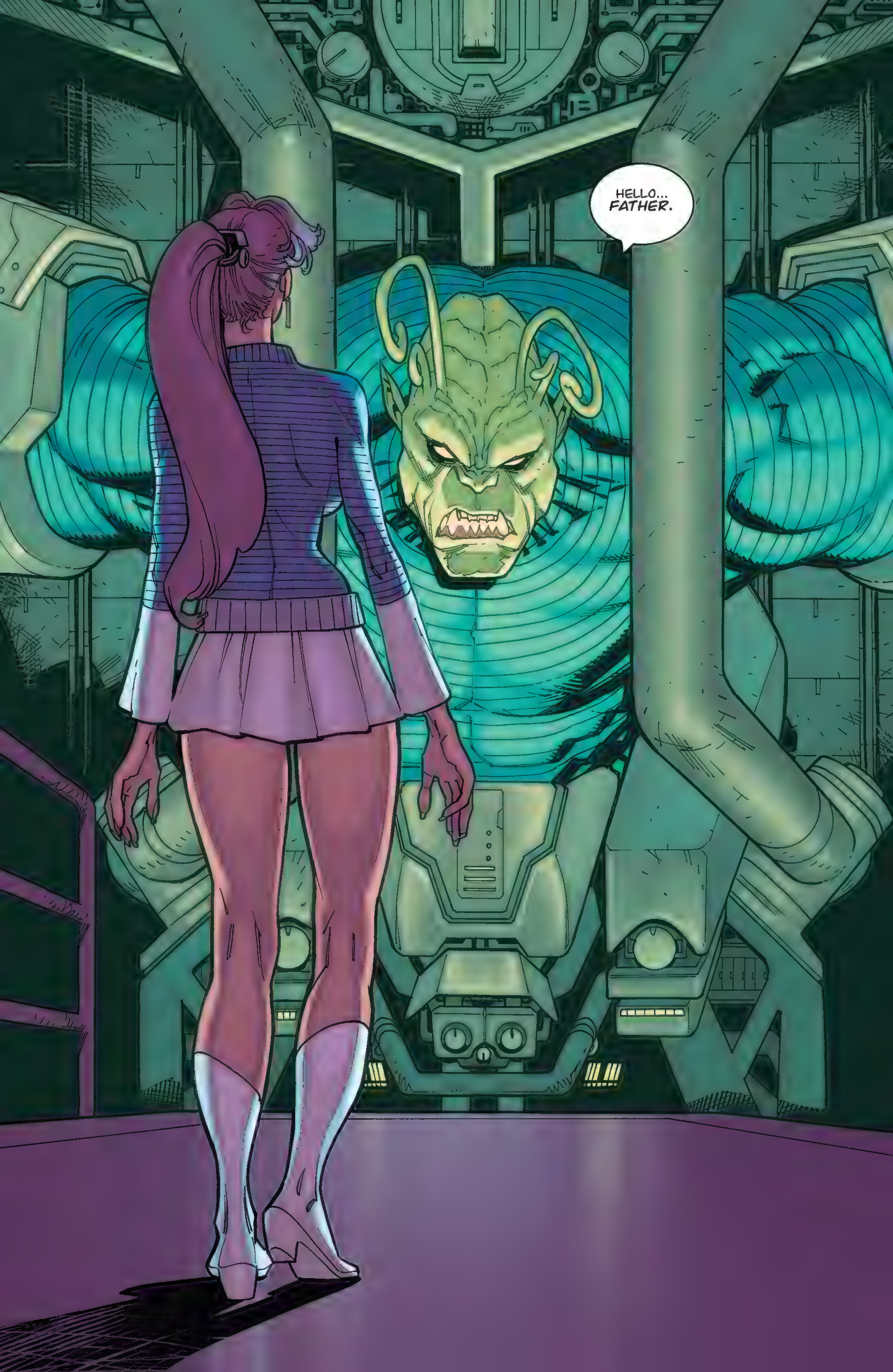
YOU WILL  
LEAD MY  
FORCES, BY  
MY SIDE--  
AS THE KING OF  
UNDERWORLD.





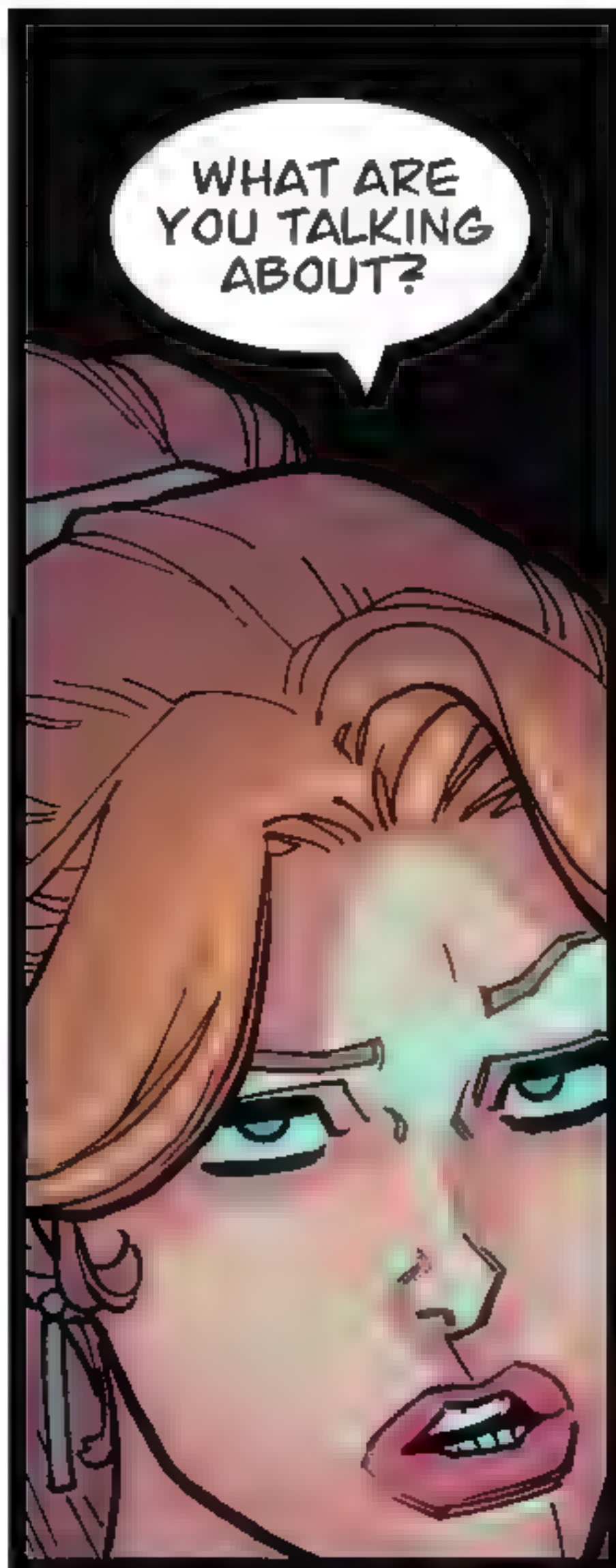
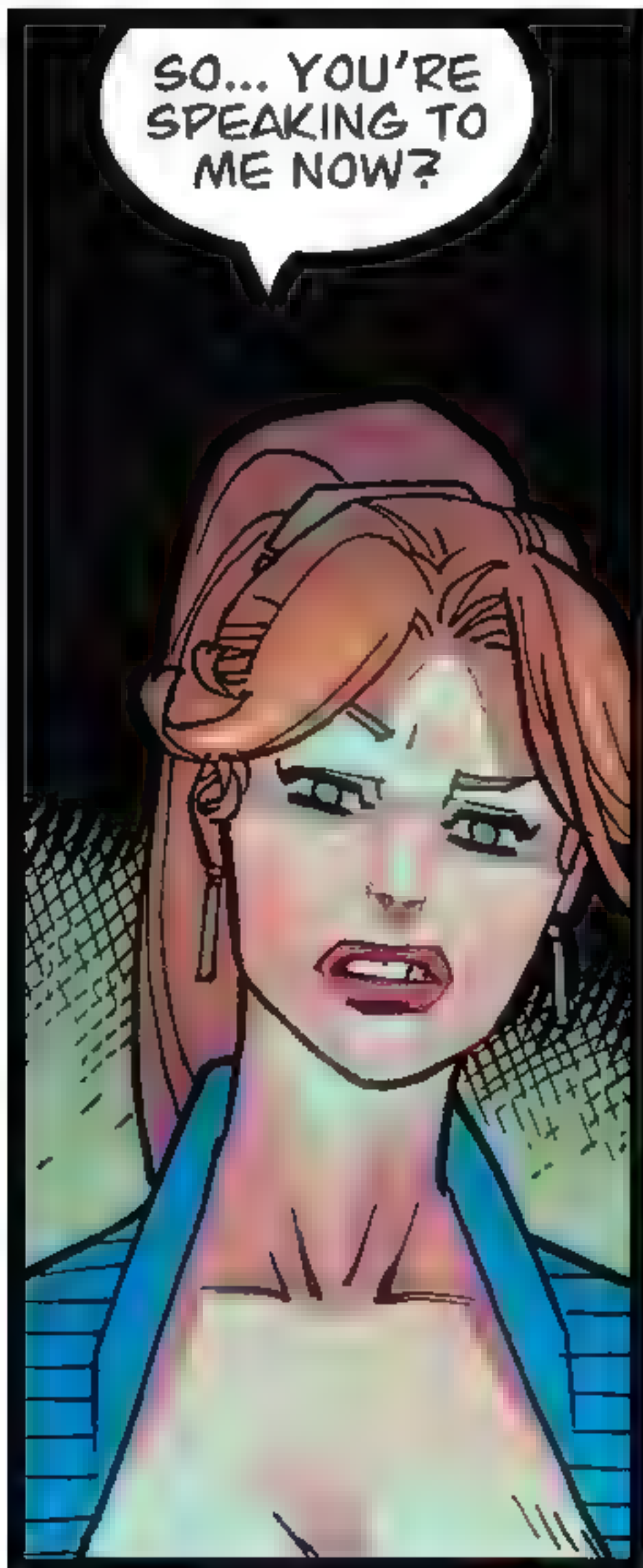






HELLO...  
FATHER.







WHO ARE WE TALKING ABOUT HERE?  
THE MAN WHO CONQUERED THE  
FLAXAN WORLD, ENSLAVED THE  
ZAXAL ROYALS, AND RULED MY  
HOME WITH AN **IRON FIST**...  
WHO DROVE YOU TO REBEL...  
DROVE YOU INTO MY  
MOTHER'S ARMS AFTER  
**YOU HELPED**  
OVERTHROW HIM?

OR THIS  
**INNOCENT**  
MAN YOU'VE  
FALLEN IN LOVE  
WITH ALL OVER  
AGAIN?

FATHER,  
PLEASE. THEY  
SIMPLY **CAN'T**  
BE ONE AND  
THE SAME.



YOU'RE  
LYING.



WHAT REASON  
WOULD I HAVE  
TO DO  
THAT?



IF YOU TRULY DIDN'T  
KNOW... IF HE KNEW OF  
MY EXISTENCE... AND  
KEPT IT FROM YOU...  
YOU'RE AS MUCH A  
VICTIM OF HIM AS  
ANY OF US.

NO. YOU ARE A **LIAR**. YOU'RE MAD  
AT ME OVER A SITUATION I HAD  
**NO CONTROL** OVER... YOU'D  
SAY **ANYTHING** TO  
HURT ME... TO  
HURT REX.



REX WAS OVERWHELMED WITH THE  
BURDEN OF **FIXING** YOUR CIVILIZATION.  
YOUR PEOPLE WERE **INVADING** OUR  
WORLD... GETTING STRONGER AND  
STRONGER. YOU WOULD  
HAVE EVENTUALLY  
TAKEN OVER.

WHAT REX...  
WHAT WE **BOTH**  
SACRIFICED TO  
SAVE THIS WORLD  
FROM **YOUR**  
PEOPLE... WE CAN  
NEVER GET THAT  
BACK.



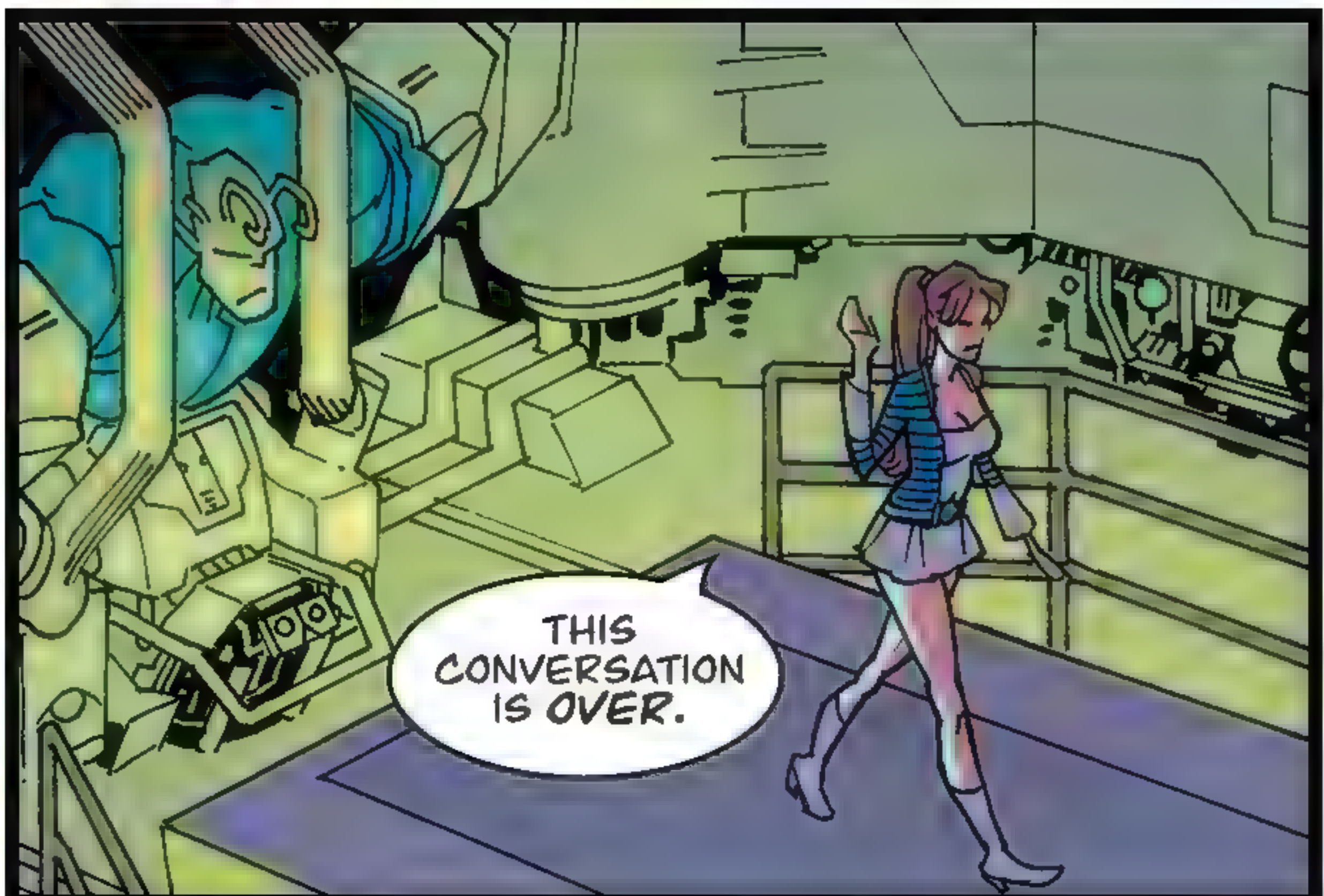
REX LOST  
HIMSELF... GOT  
CARRIED AWAY WITH  
**CHANGING** YOUR  
PEOPLE... MAKING THEM  
A PEACEFUL PEOPLE... HE  
CROSSED A LINE OR TWO  
ALONG THE WAY, BUT IN  
THE END... HE GAVE  
ALL THAT UP.

WHERE  
HE WENT...  
THE THINGS  
HE DID.

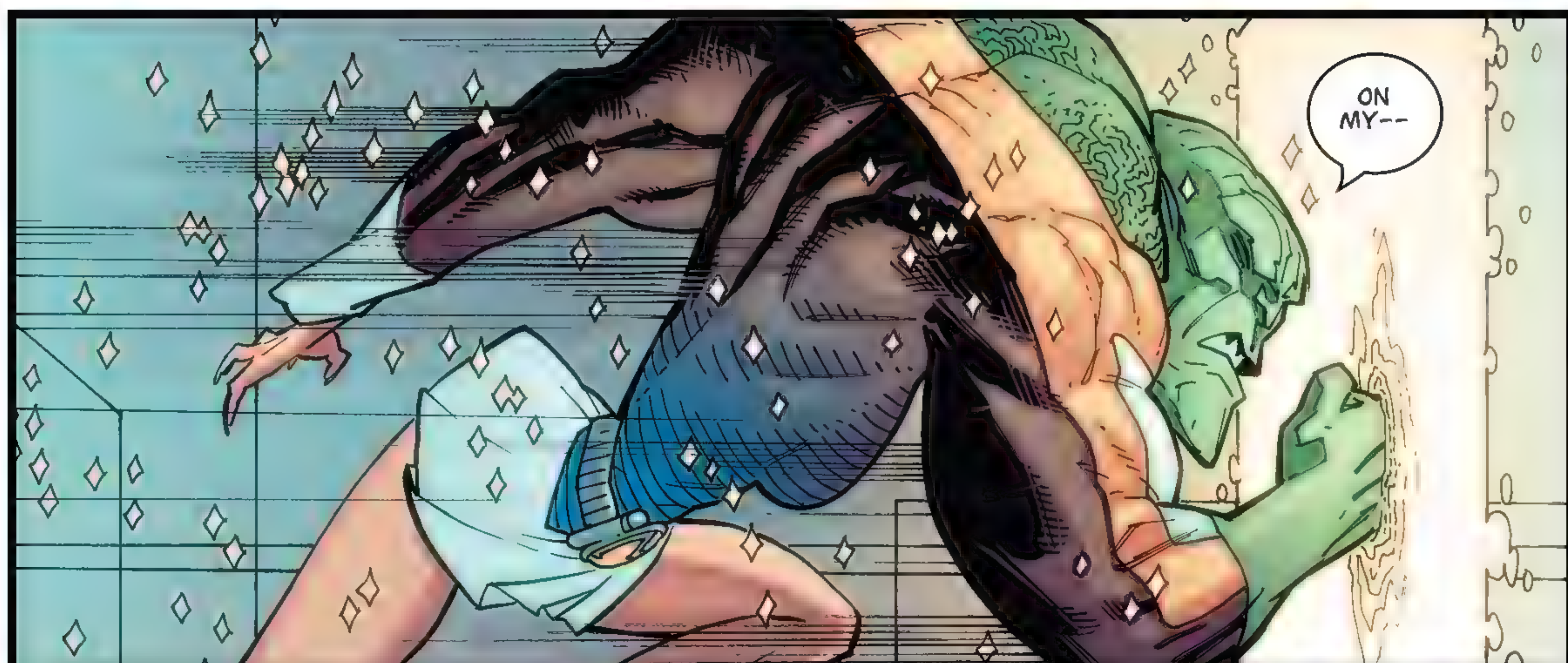
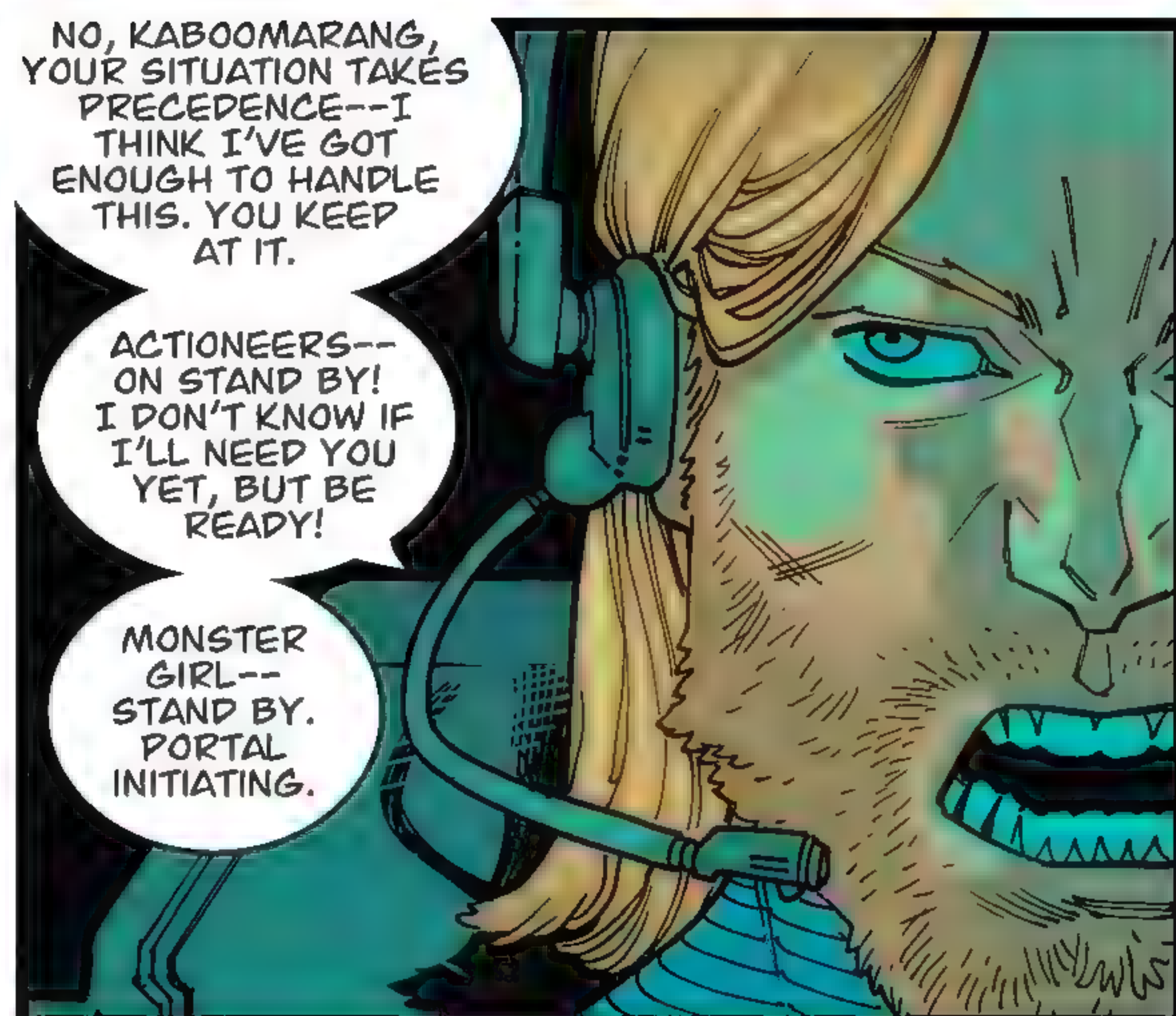
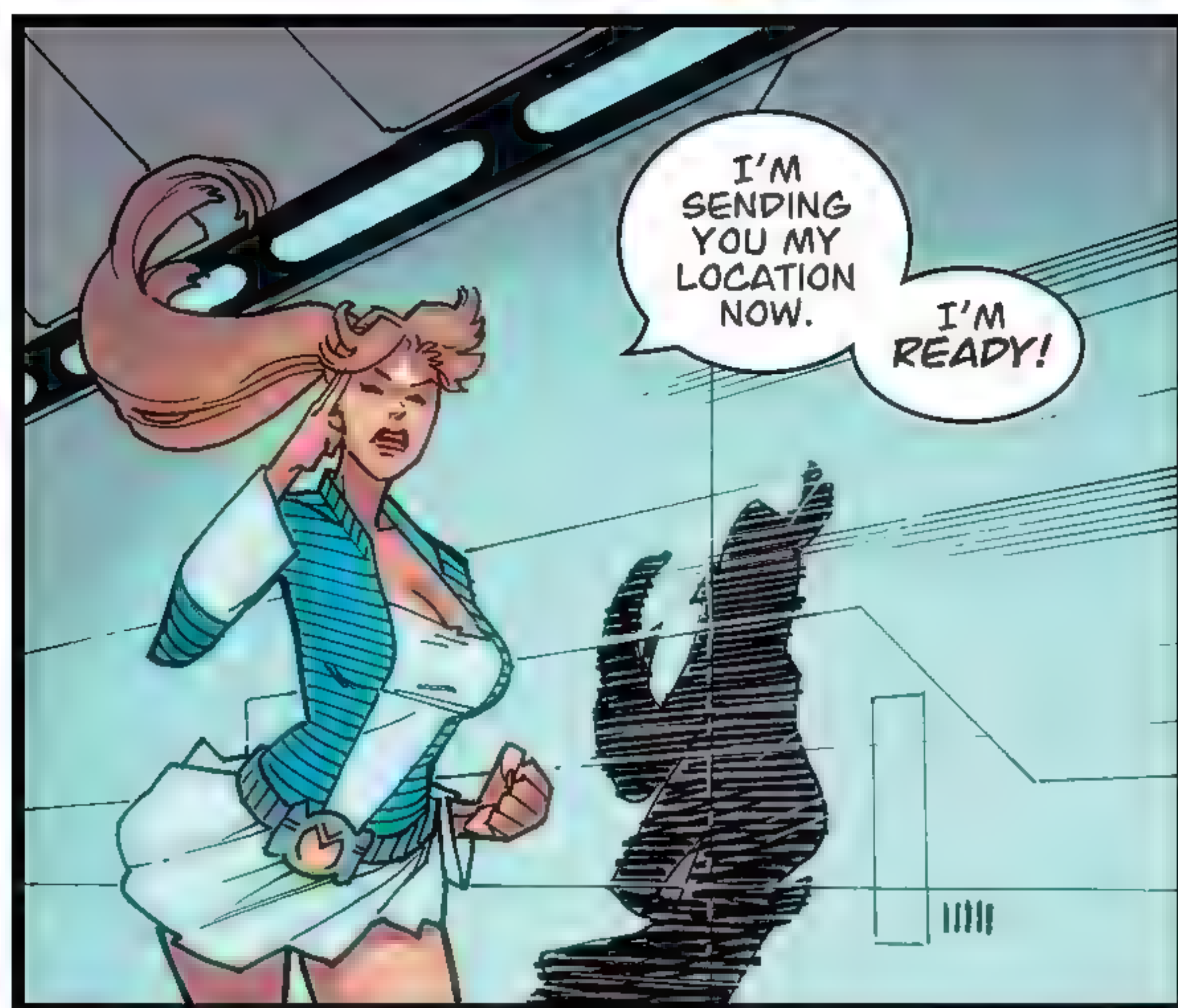
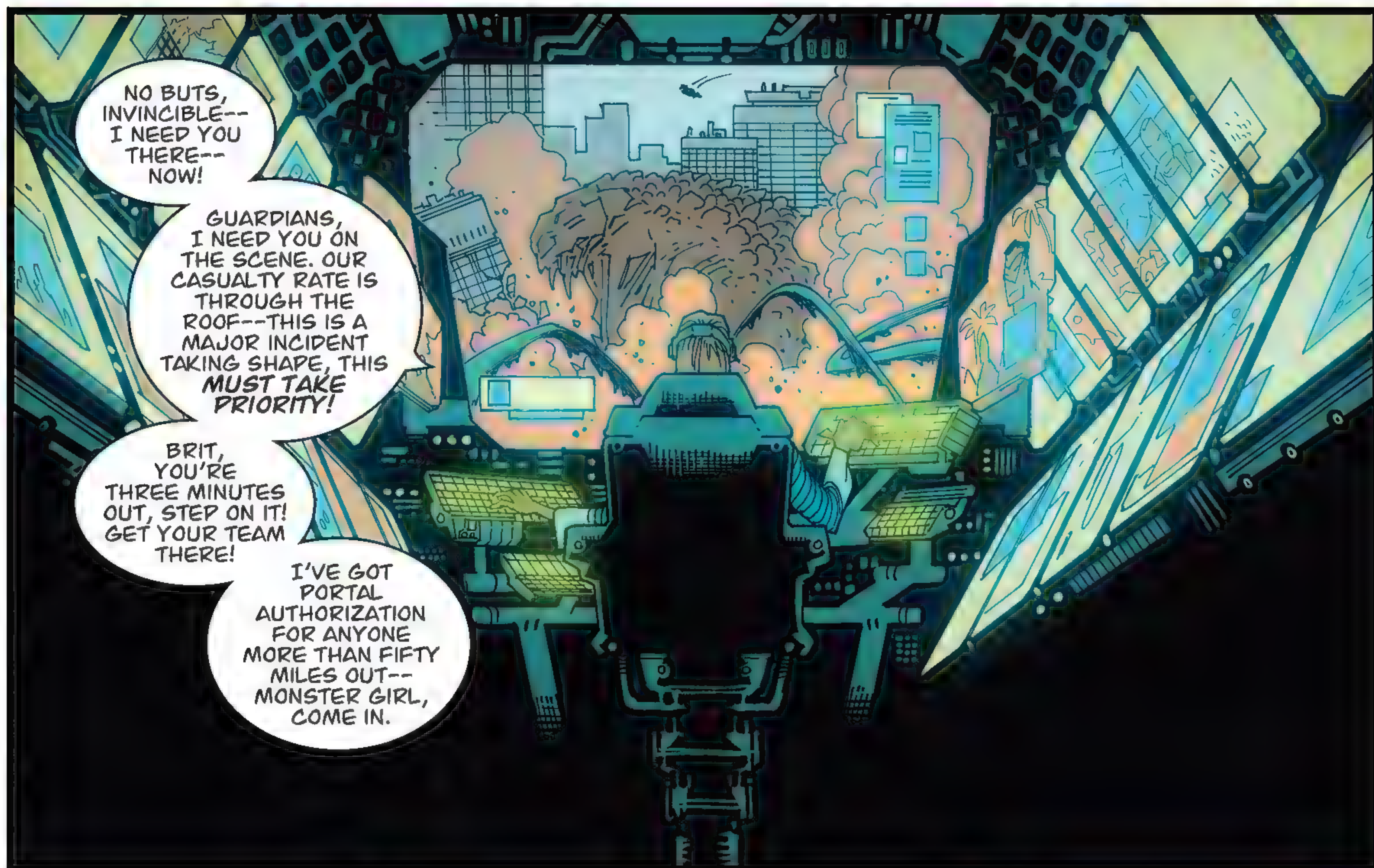
IS THAT  
REALLY  
SOMETHING  
YOU COME  
BACK  
FROM?



THIS  
CONVERSATION  
IS OVER.















THE FEMALE REFERRED TO HERSELF AS **VOLCANIKKA**. THE MALE HAS REFERRED TO HIMSELF AS **SEISMIC** AND HE'S REFERENCED SOME KIND OF TRANSFORMATION... AND THAT WE'VE FACED HIM BEFORE.

THAT LEADS ME TO BELIEVE THAT WE ARE SOMEHOW FACING A NEW AND IMPROVED **DOC SEISMIC**.

WELL, THAT EXPLAINS THE GIANT MONSTER!

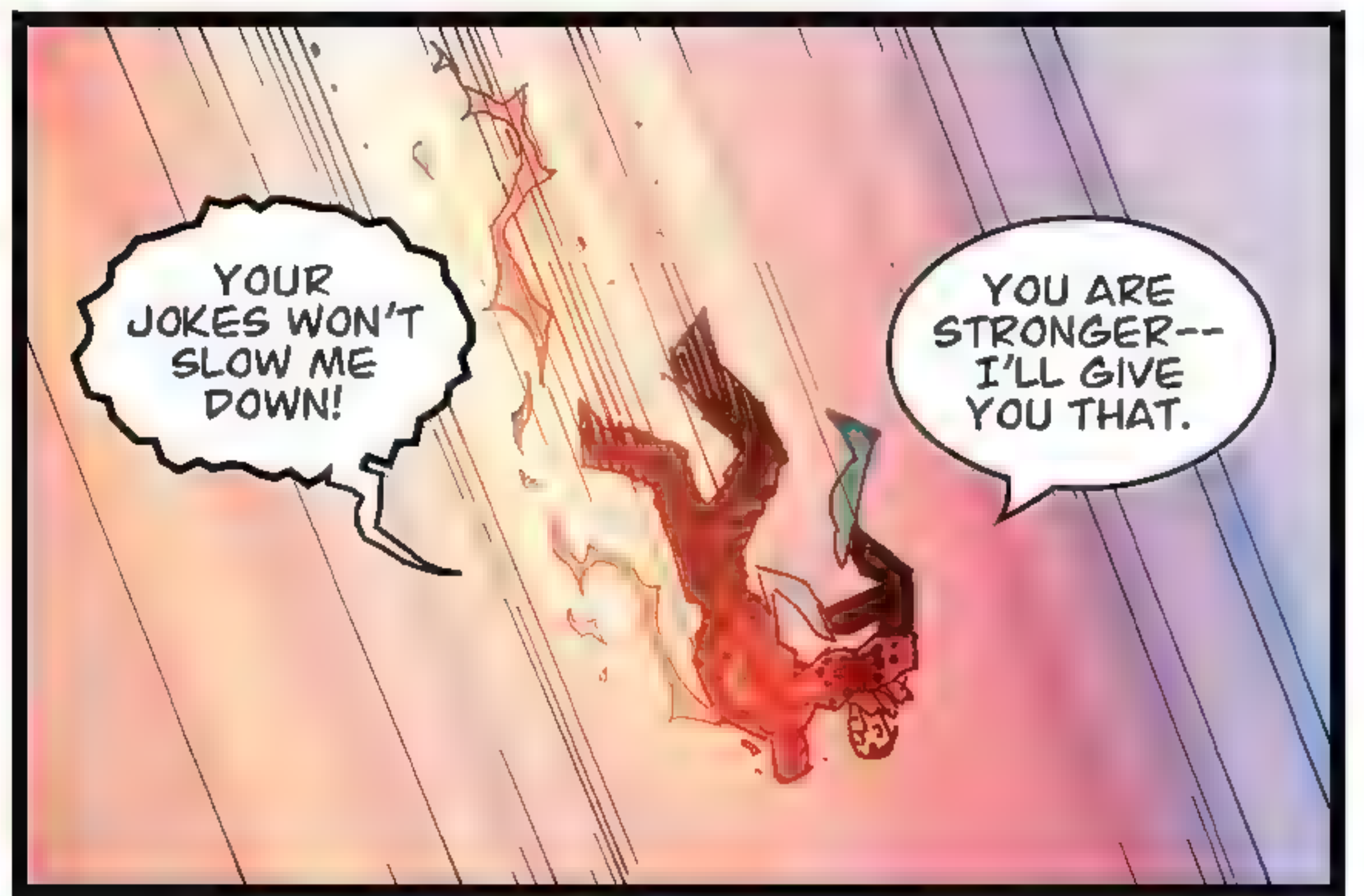
SO HE'S BACK TO HIS OLD TRICKS...

YOU'RE OUR HEAVY HITTER, INVINCIBLE. I NEED YOU TO FOCUS ON THAT MONSTER-- SHUT IT DOWN!

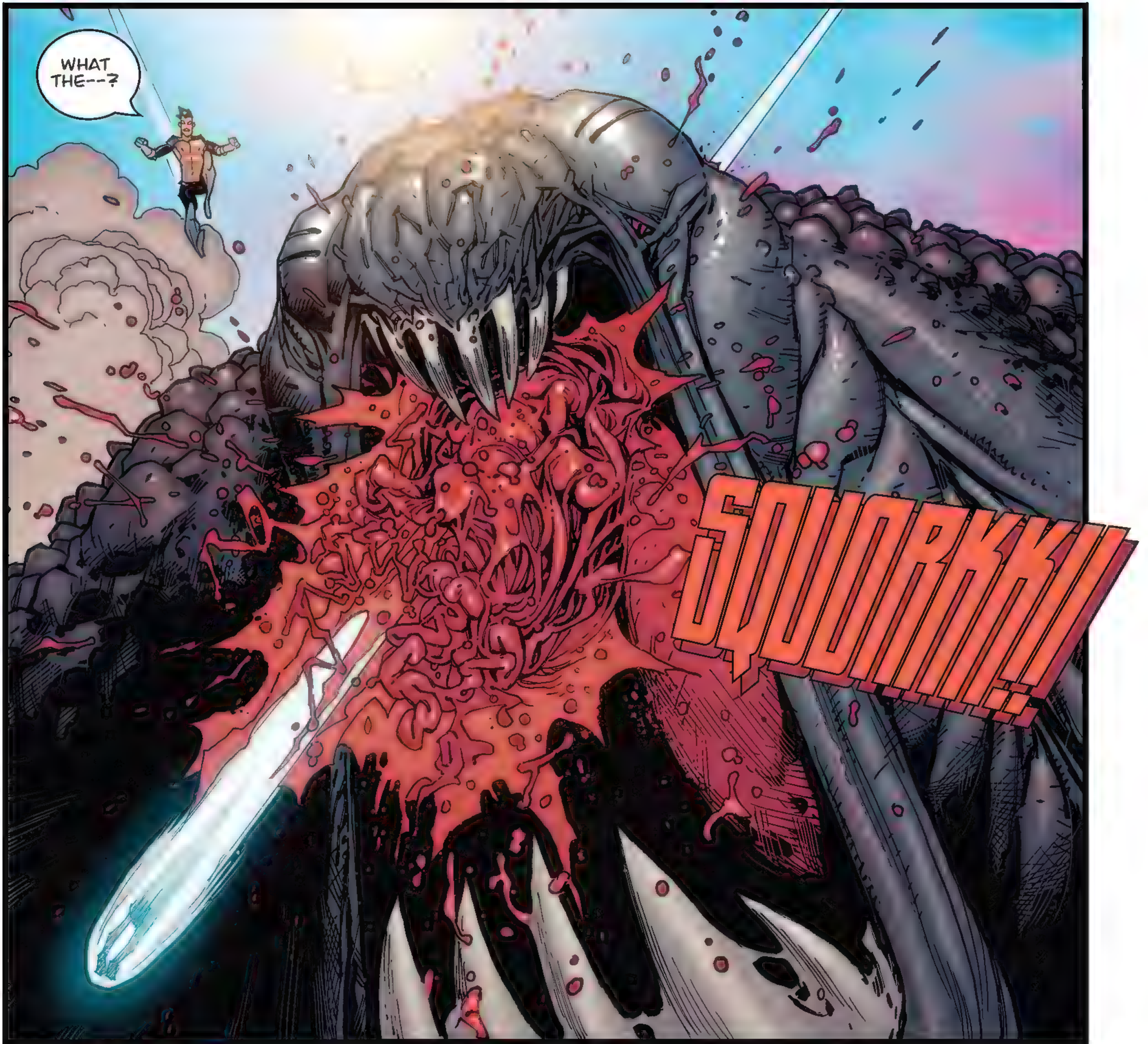
THE STRUCTURAL INTEGRITY OF THOSE BUILDINGS IS COMPROMISED! THEY COULD COLLAPSE AT ANY SECOND--WE NEED TO STOP ITS RAMPAGE NOW IF WE HAVE ANY HOPE OF GETTING THOSE PEOPLE EVACUATED!

ON IT!







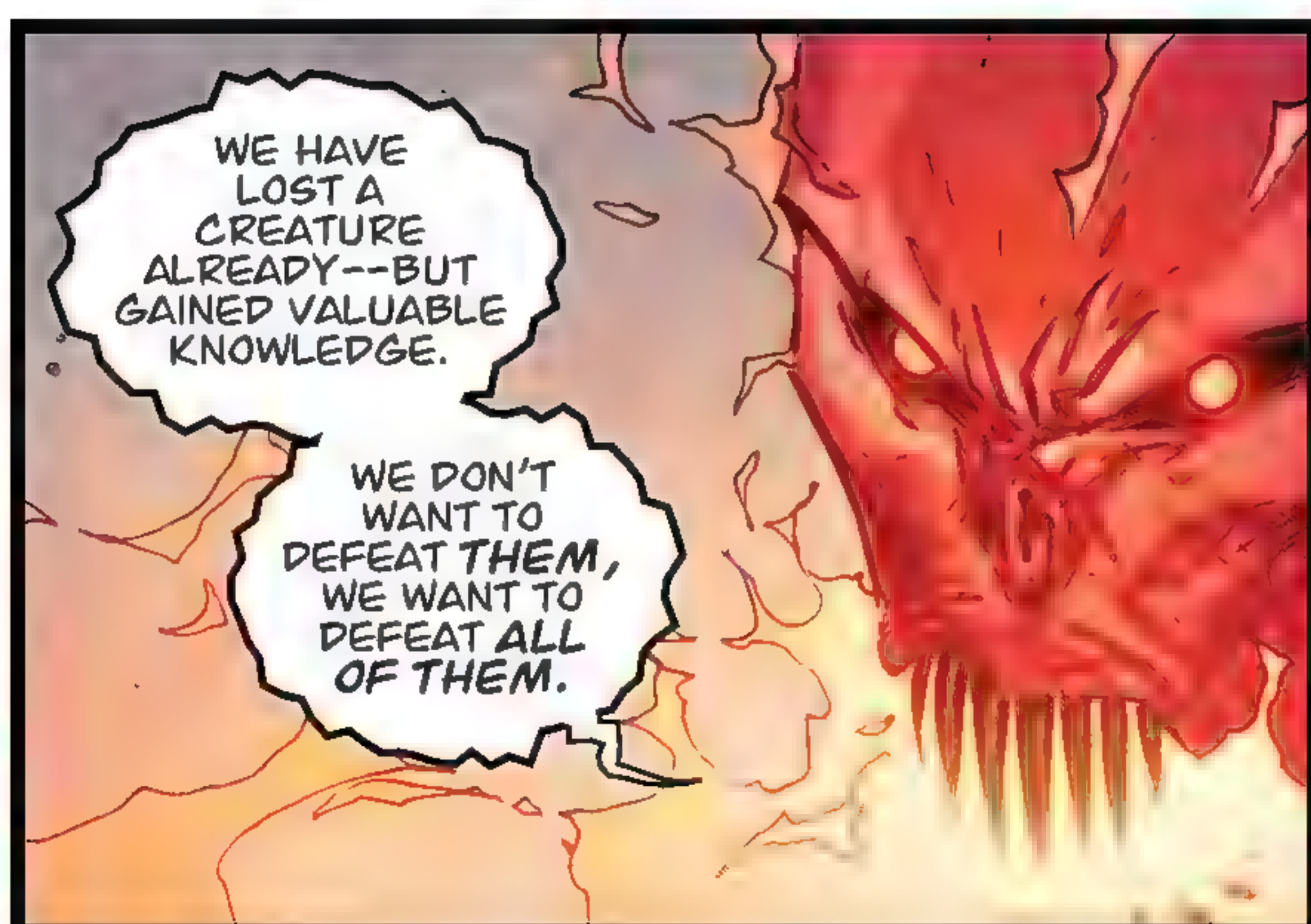






QUICK,  
WHILE THEY  
ARE DISTRACTED,  
WE MUST MAKE  
OUR EXIT!

NO--  
WHAT?!  
WE CAN  
DEFEAT  
THEM!

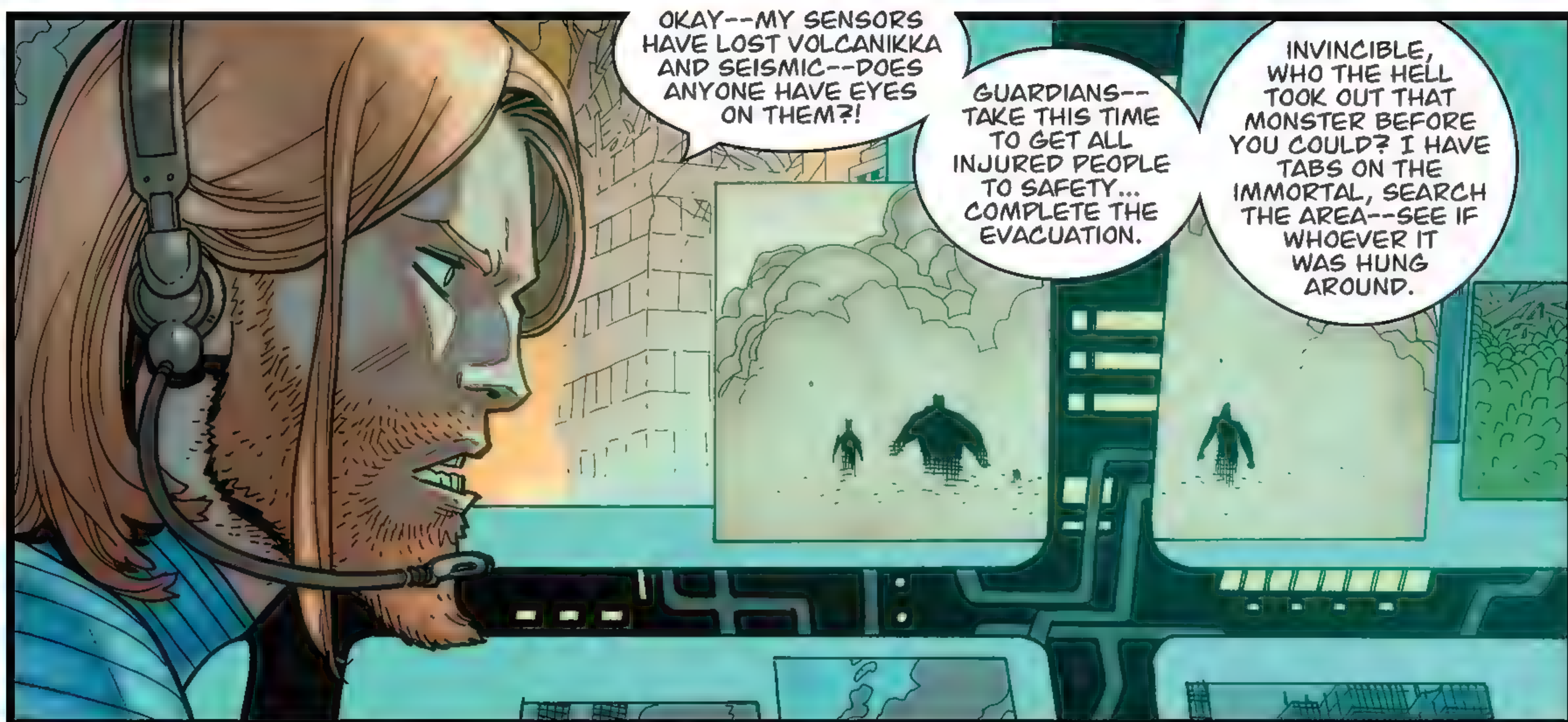


WE HAVE  
LOST A  
CREATURE  
ALREADY--BUT  
GAINED VALUABLE  
KNOWLEDGE.

WE DON'T  
WANT TO  
DEFEAT THEM,  
WE WANT TO  
DEFEAT ALL  
OF THEM.



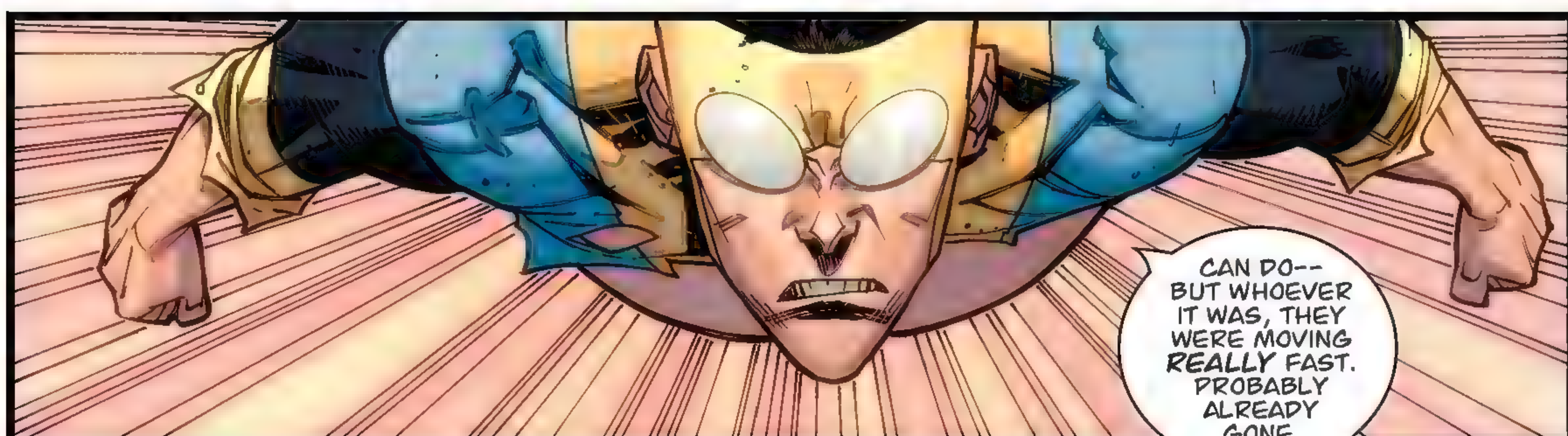
AS YOU  
WISH.



OKAY--MY SENSORS  
HAVE LOST VOLCANIKKA  
AND SEISMIC--DOES  
ANYONE HAVE EYES  
ON THEM?!

GUARDIANS--  
TAKE THIS TIME  
TO GET ALL  
INJURED PEOPLE  
TO SAFETY...  
COMPLETE THE  
EVACUATION.

INVINCIBLE,  
WHO THE HELL  
TOOK OUT THAT  
MONSTER BEFORE  
YOU COULD? I HAVE  
TABS ON THE  
IMMORTAL, SEARCH  
THE AREA--SEE IF  
WHOEVER IT  
WAS HUNG  
AROUND.

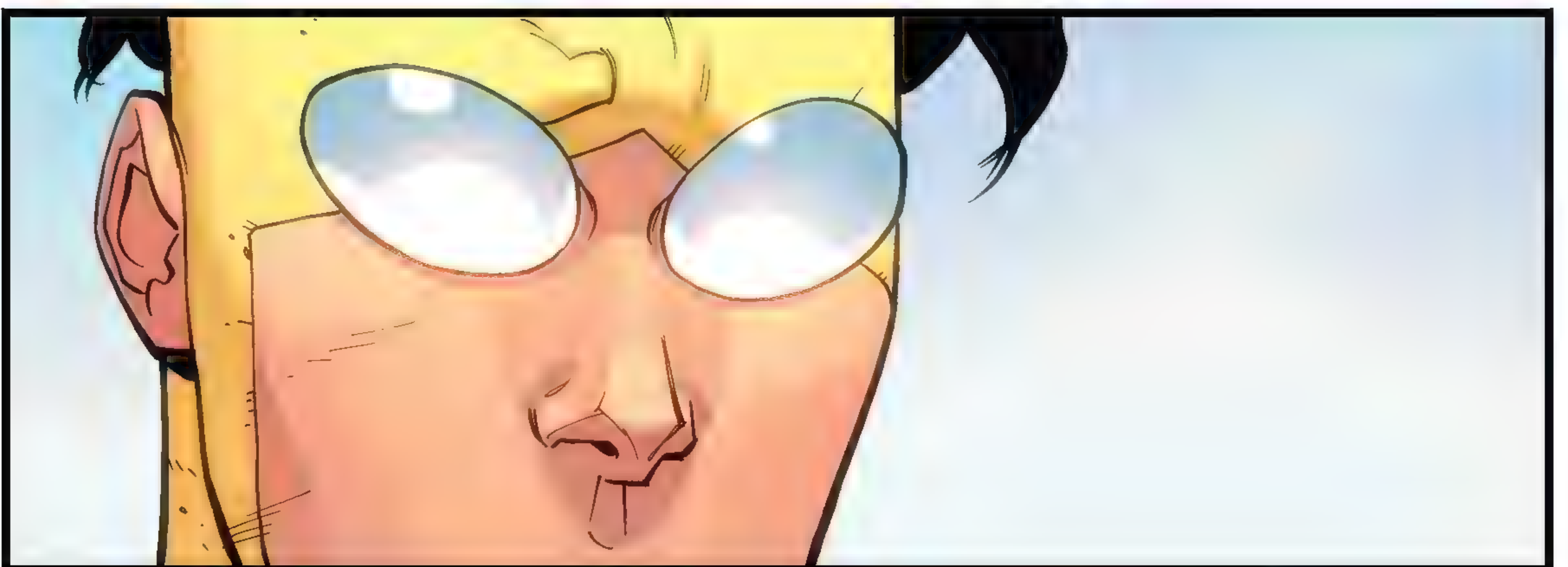
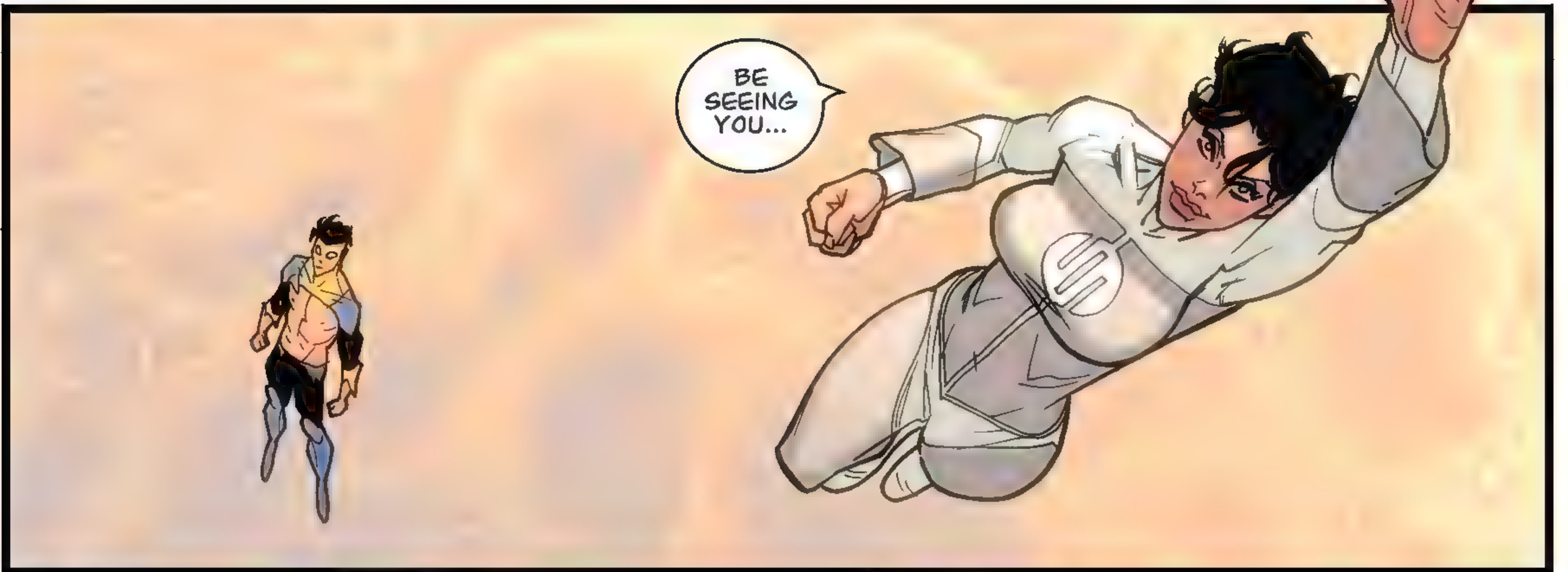


CAN DO--  
BUT WHOEVER  
IT WAS, THEY  
WERE MOVING  
REALLY FAST.  
PROBABLY  
ALREADY  
GONE.

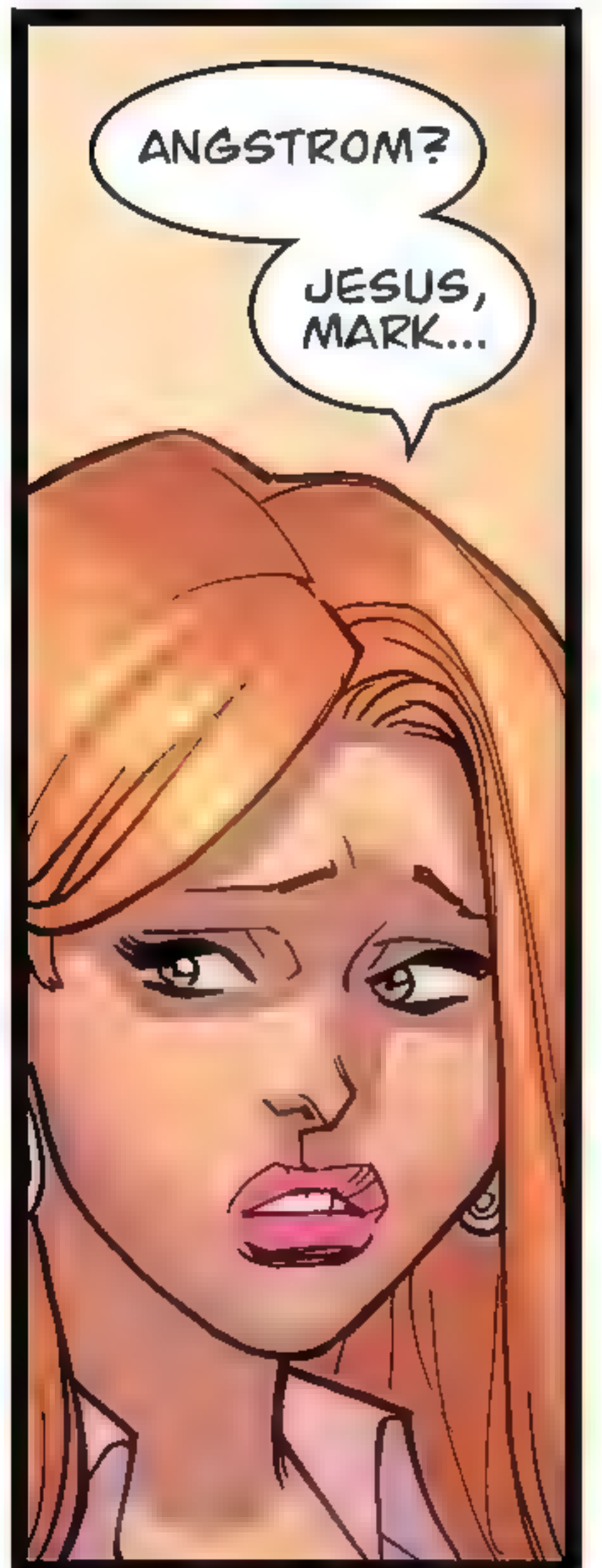
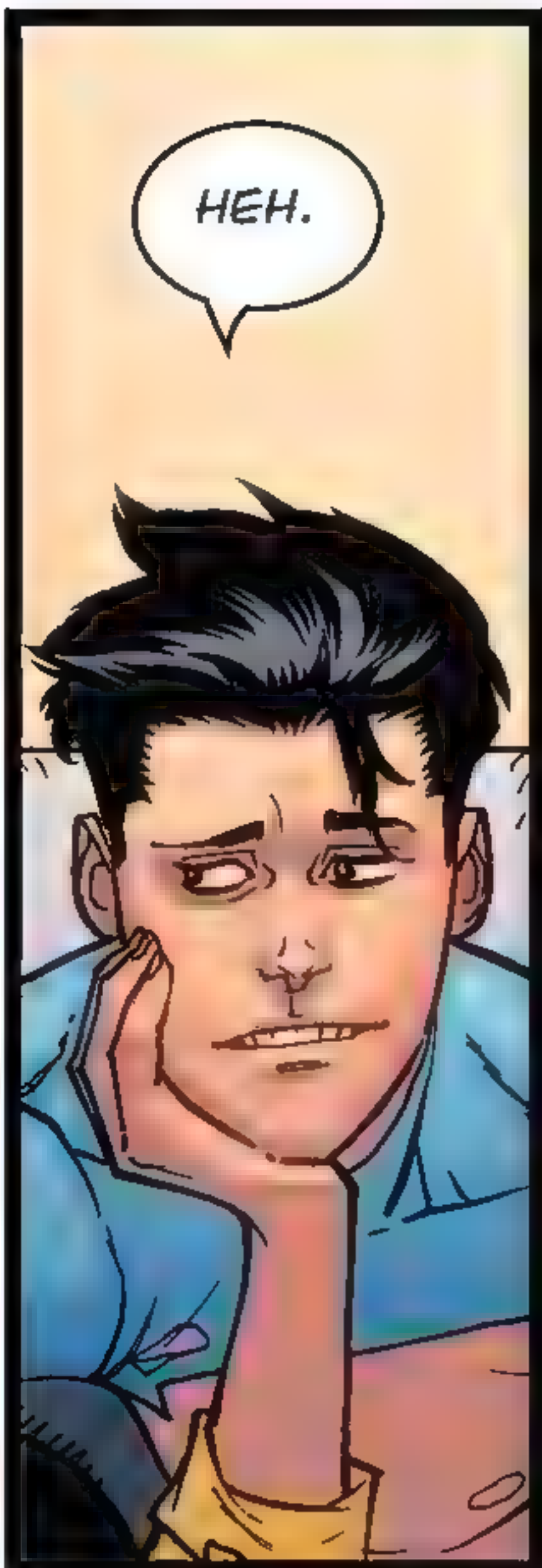
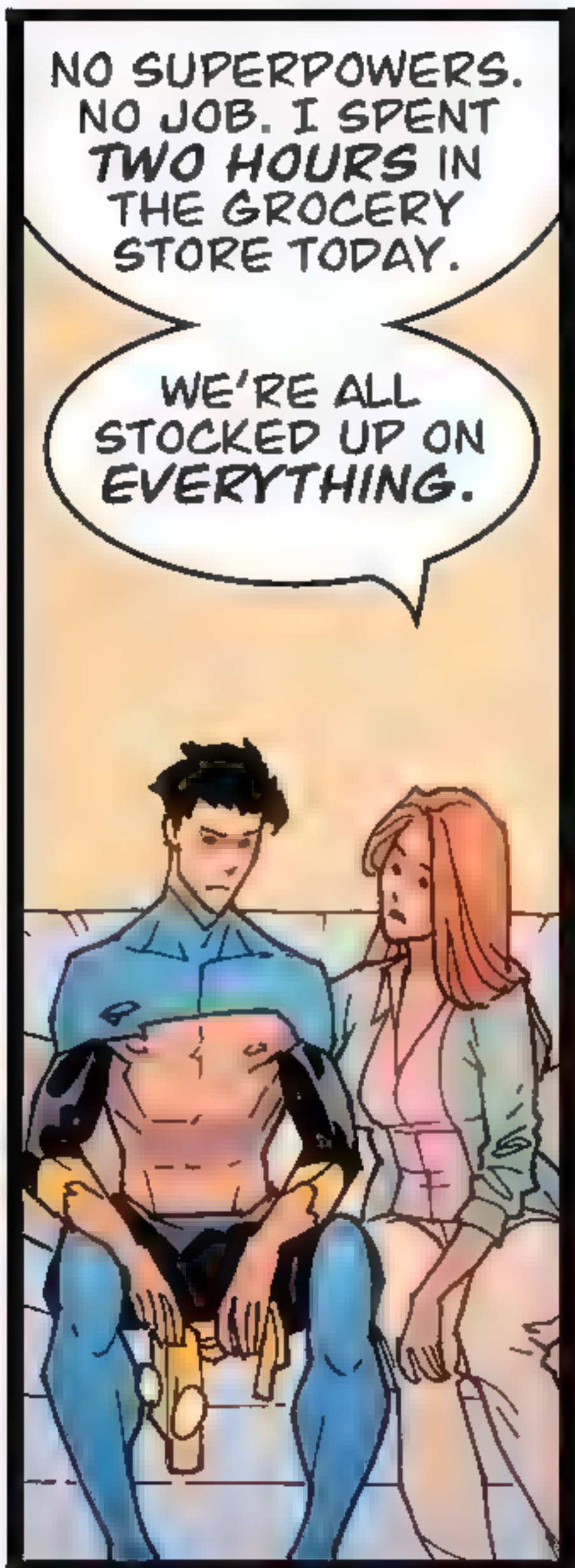
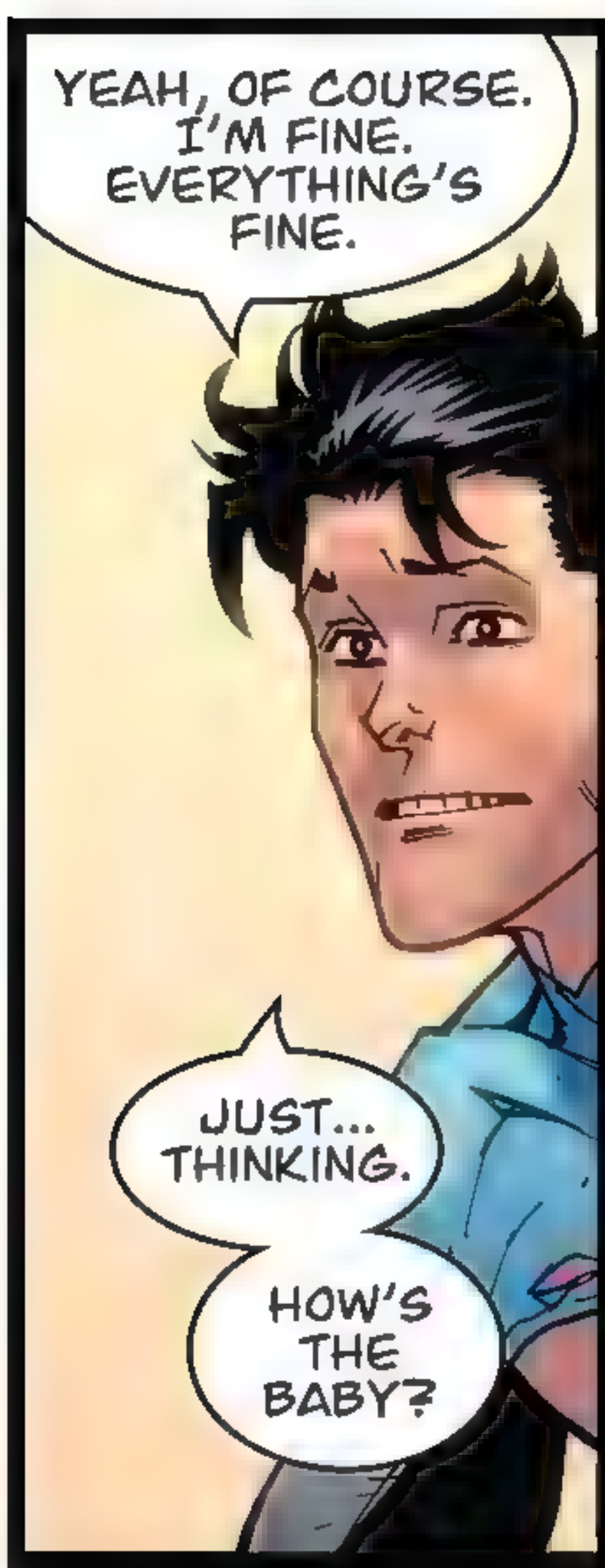
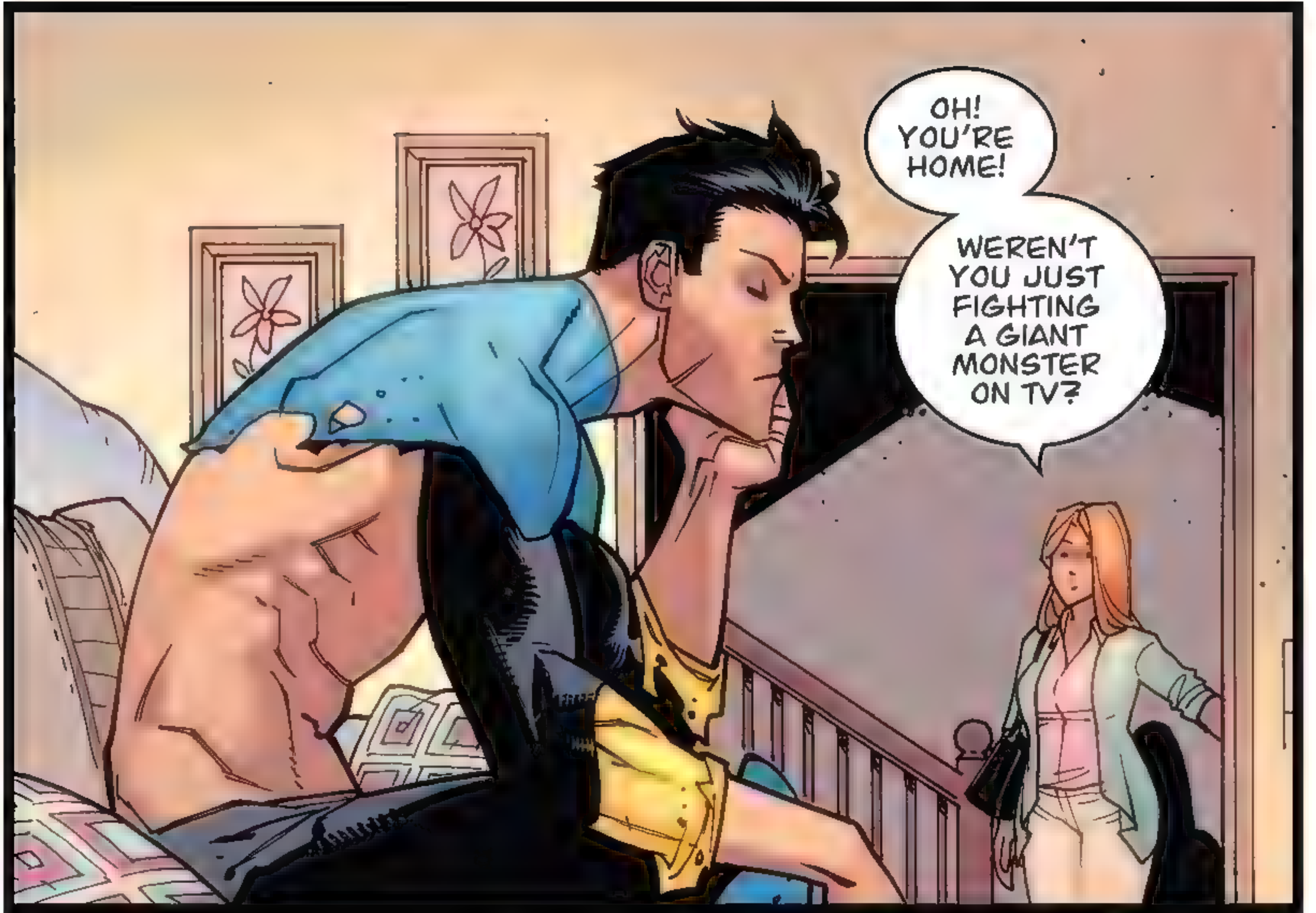
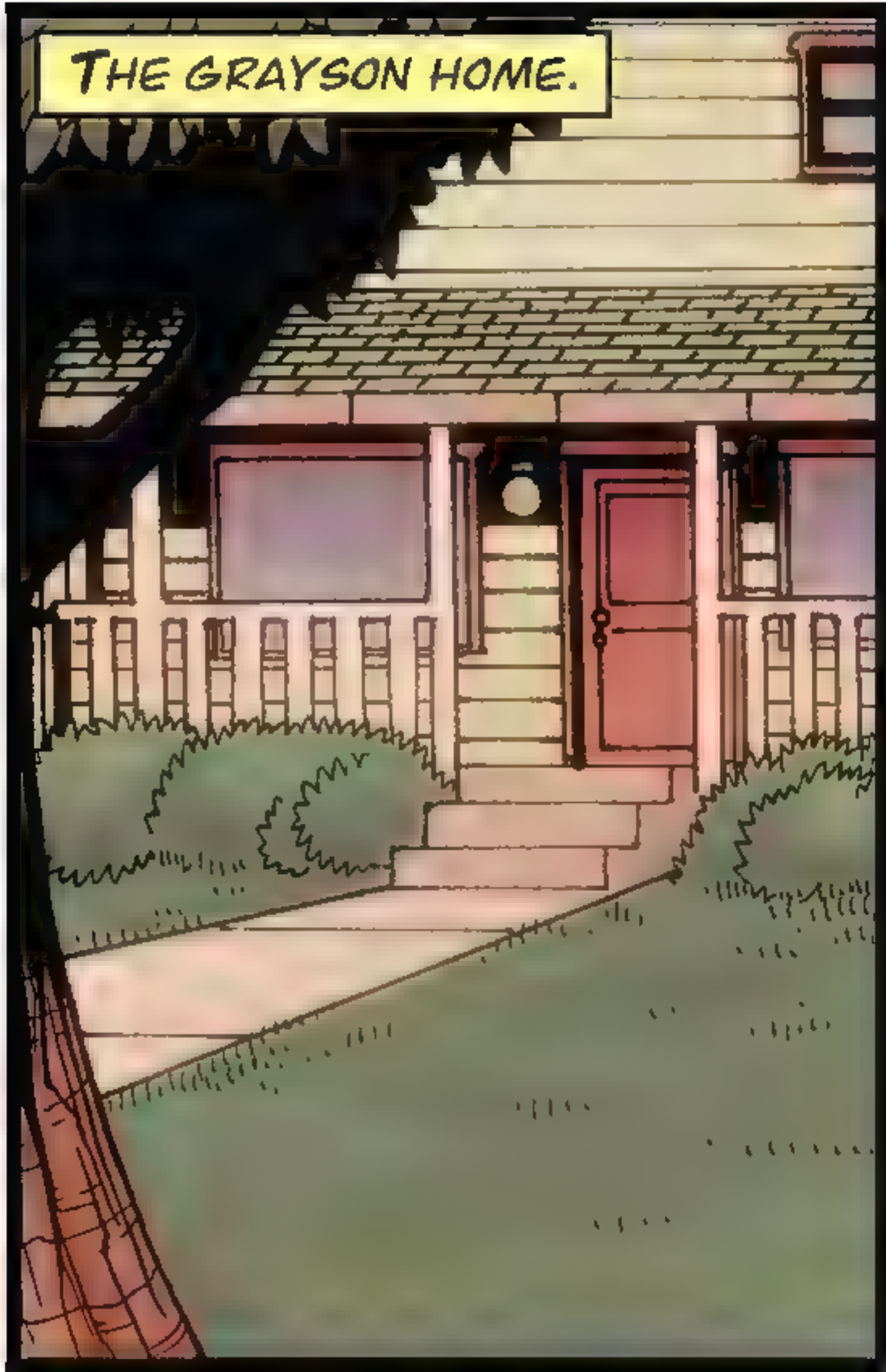














YES, **ANGSTROM LEVY**.  
THE GUY WHO WILL DO  
ANYTHING TO HURT ME...  
WHO WANTS TO MURDER  
EVERYONE I LOVE.  
WHO KNOWS WHO I AM,  
WHO KNOWS WHERE  
WE LIVE... AND WHO  
COULD STRIKE  
AT ANY  
MOMENT.

IS THE  
PICTURE  
STARTING TO  
CLEAR UP  
FOR YOU?

ONE, HE'S IN A  
WHOLE OTHER  
DIMENSION--AND TWO,  
THAT OTHER VERSION OF  
YOU WAS GOING TO KILL  
HIM AND PROBABLY  
ALREADY HAS.

EVE, I KILLED  
HIM ONCE ALREADY  
MYSELF. HE CAME  
BACK... HE FIGURED  
OUT A WAY  
TO LIVE.

HE'S GOT  
RESOURCES  
FROM OTHER  
DIMENSIONS...  
HE ALWAYS  
HAS A  
CONTINGENCY  
PLAN.

I WAKE  
UP THINKING...  
IS THIS THE  
DAY?

I CAN'T  
HAVE THAT  
HANGING OVER  
MY HEAD FOR  
THE REST OF  
MY LIFE!

IT SEEMED  
LIKE I TALKED  
SOME SENSE  
INTO HIM.

HE MAY  
NOT EVEN  
WANT  
YOU DEAD  
ANYMORE.

YOU  
BOUGHT  
THAT?

MARK... PLEASE.  
TELL ROBOT TO  
STOP WORKING ON  
THAT GATEWAY  
OR PORTAL OR  
WHATEVER.

JUST LET IT  
GO. FOR ME. I  
DON'T WANT TO  
SEE YOU GO  
DOWN THE SAME  
ROAD HE DID...  
DON'T LET THIS  
DRIVE YOU  
CRAZY.





OUR KIND DO NOT TREAD  
LIGHTLY, AND WE DO NOT  
VENTURE INTO REALMS  
WE DO NOT FULLY  
UNDERSTAND.

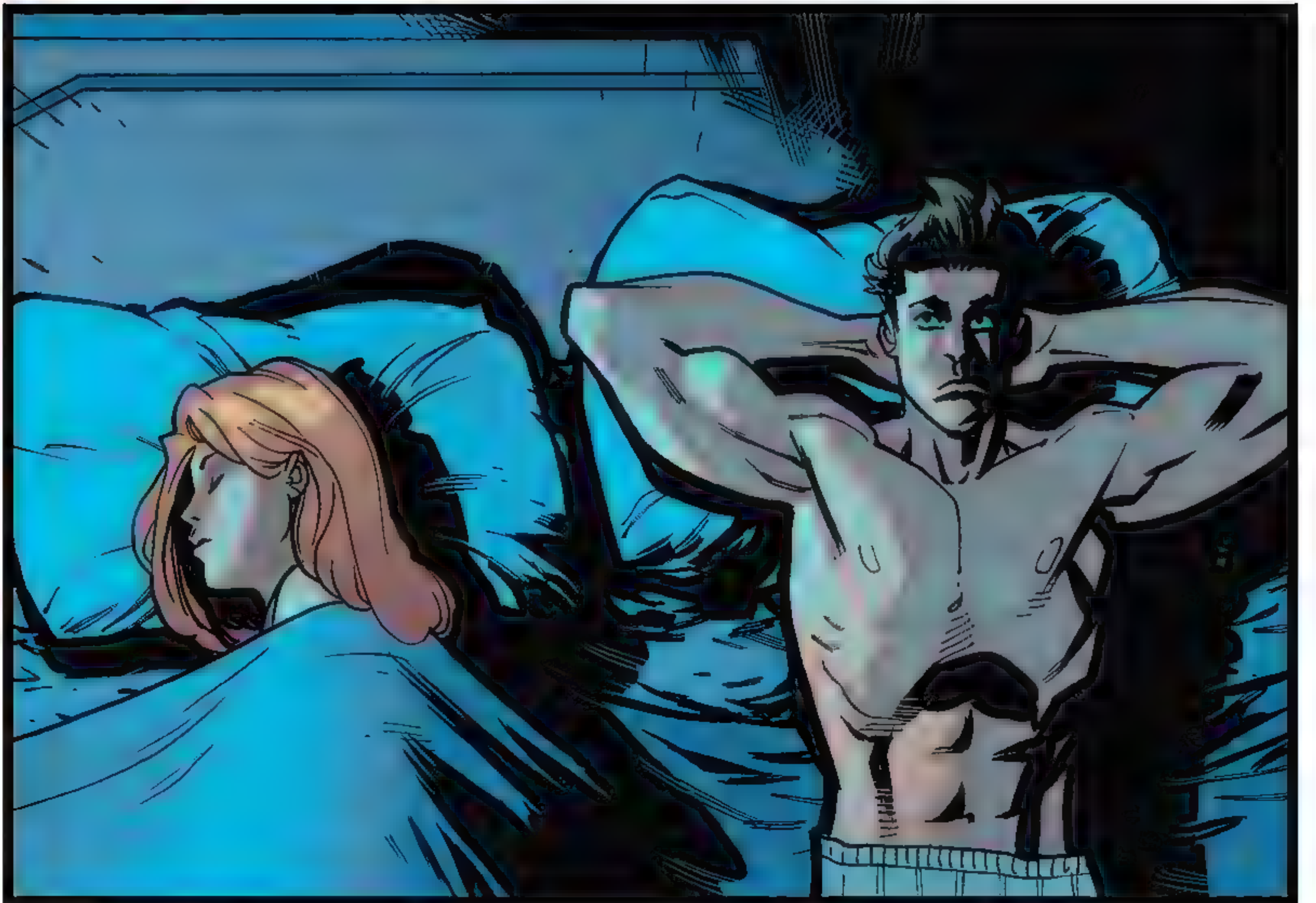
WE KNOW THEIR  
RESPONSE TIME AND  
THE FORCE OF THEIR  
RESPONSE... WE  
KNOW WHAT THEY  
CAN WITHSTAND...  
AND WHAT THEY  
CAN'T.

WITH YOUR  
KNOWLEDGE OF  
THEIR WORLD---  
AND WHAT  
WE JUST  
LEARNED...

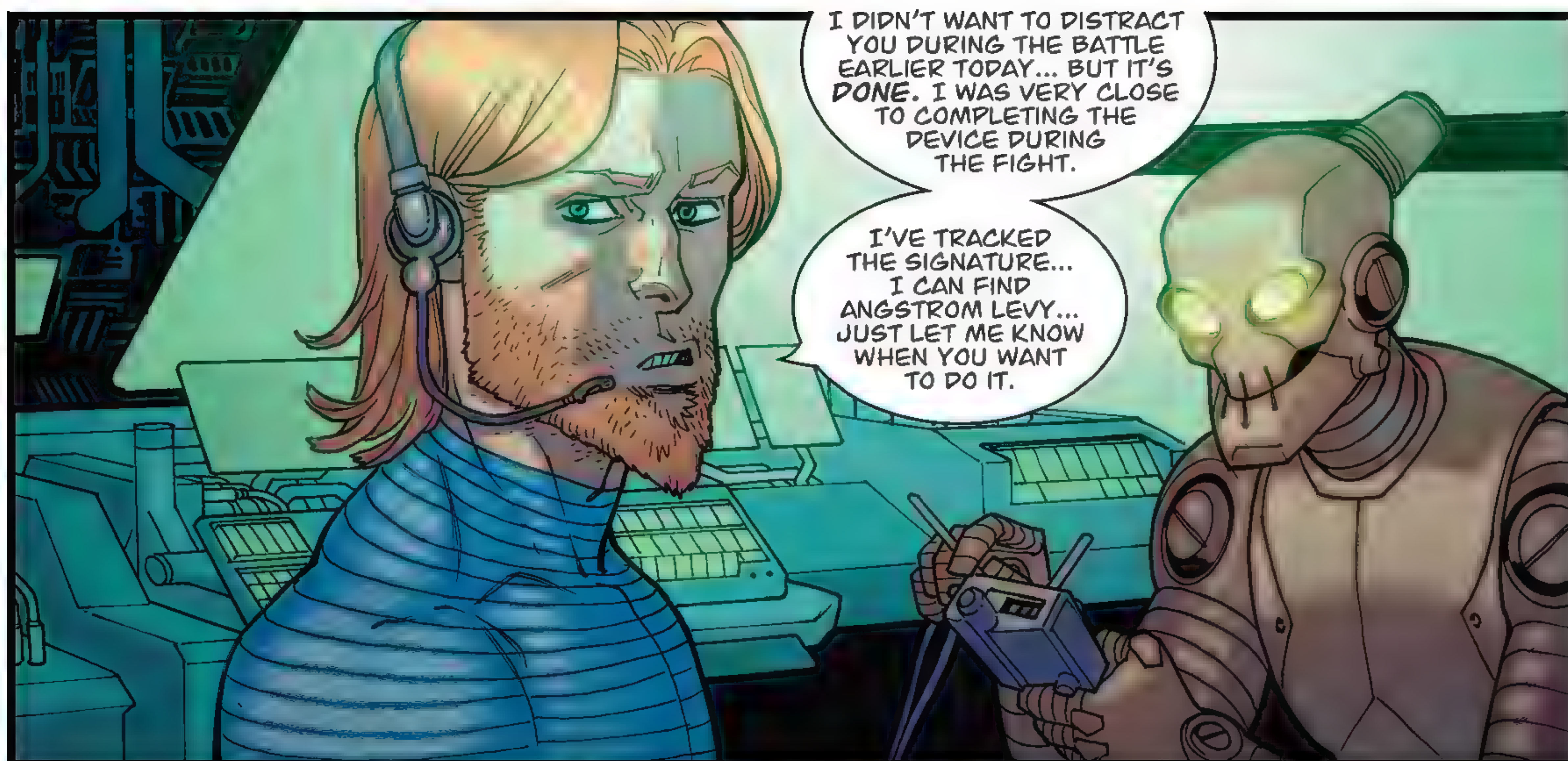


NEXT TIME  
WE'LL BE  
READY FOR  
THEM.











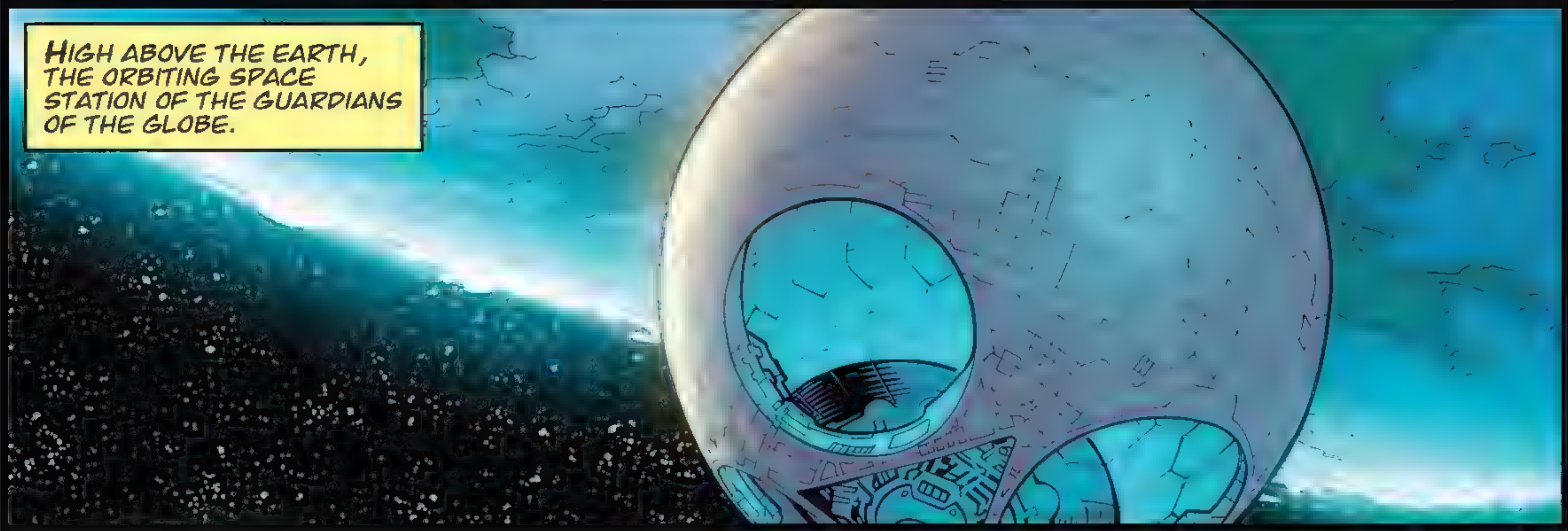




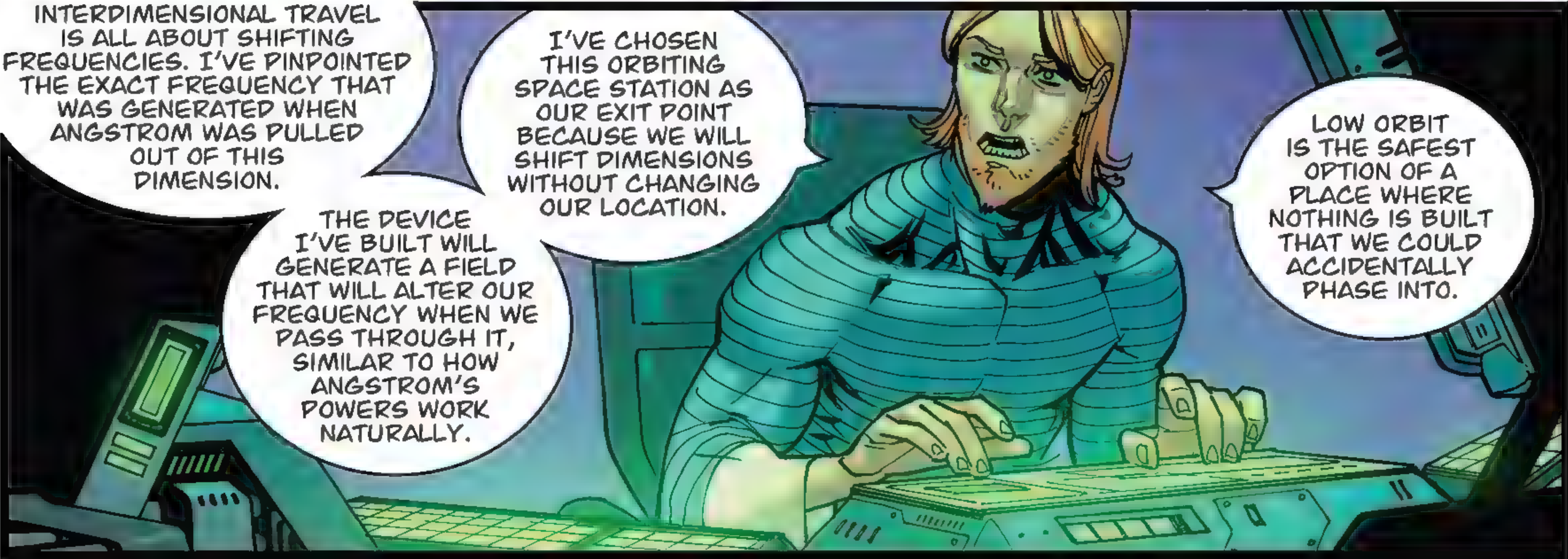
# CHAPTER SIX







HIGH ABOVE THE EARTH,  
THE ORBITING SPACE  
STATION OF THE GUARDIANS  
OF THE GLOBE.



INTERDIMENSIONAL TRAVEL  
IS ALL ABOUT SHIFTING  
FREQUENCIES. I'VE PINPOINTED  
THE EXACT FREQUENCY THAT  
WAS GENERATED WHEN  
ANGSTROM WAS PULLED  
OUT OF THIS  
DIMENSION.

I'VE CHOSEN  
THIS ORBITING  
SPACE STATION AS  
OUR EXIT POINT  
BECAUSE WE WILL  
SHIFT DIMENSIONS  
WITHOUT CHANGING  
OUR LOCATION.

THE DEVICE  
I'VE BUILT WILL  
GENERATE A FIELD  
THAT WILL ALTER OUR  
FREQUENCY WHEN WE  
PASS THROUGH IT,  
SIMILAR TO HOW  
ANGSTROM'S  
POWERS WORK  
NATURALLY.

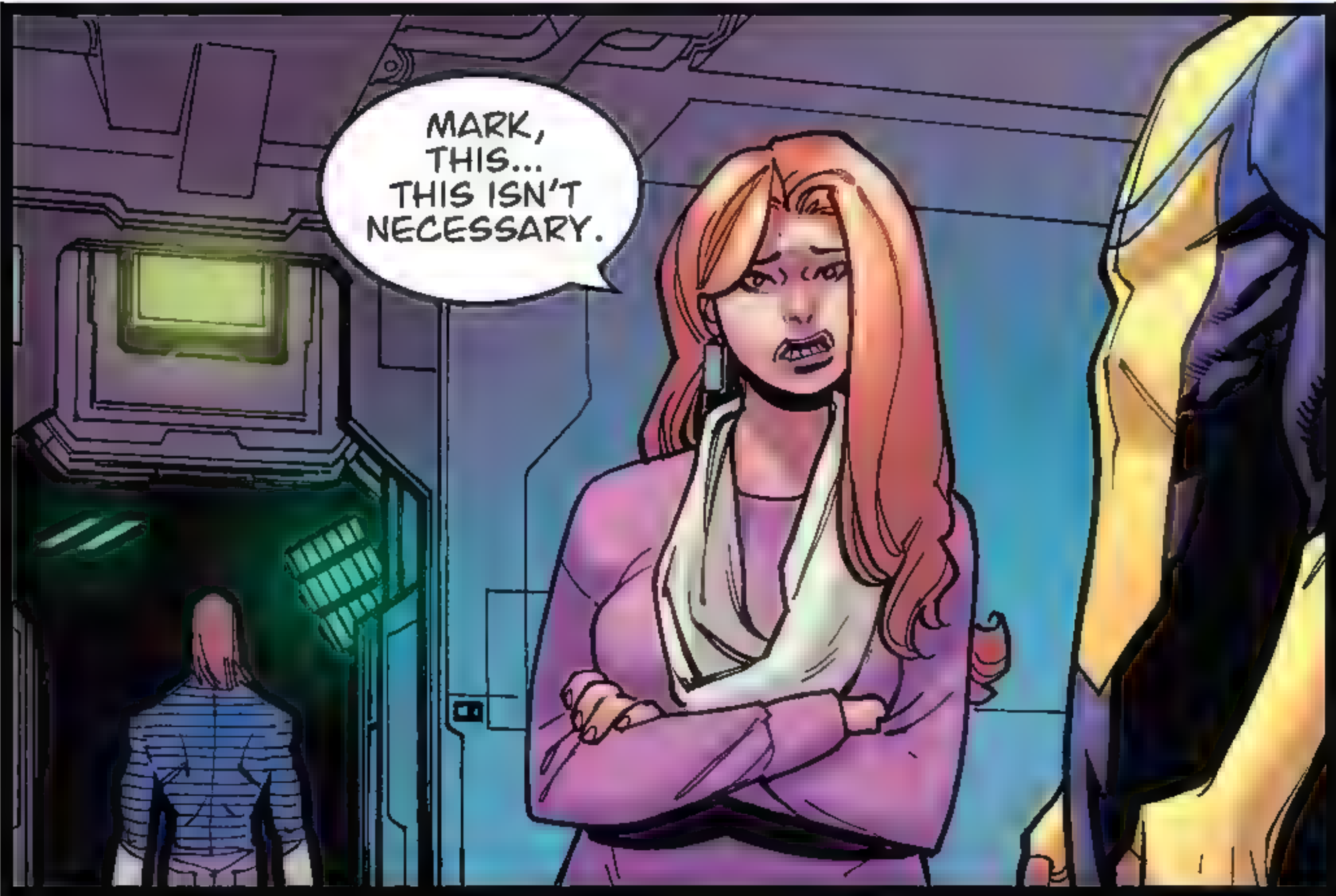
LOW ORBIT  
IS THE SAFEST  
OPTION OF A  
PLACE WHERE  
NOTHING IS BUILT  
THAT WE COULD  
ACCIDENTALLY  
PHASE INTO.



ALL THAT IS A LONG-WINDED  
WAY OF SAYING... I'M READY  
WHEN YOU ARE. JUST LET  
ME GET SUITED UP AND  
WE CAN GO.

THANKS.  
THANKS SO  
MUCH FOR  
AGREEING TO COME  
WITH ME. I REALLY  
APPRECIATE  
THIS, REX.

I KNOW  
WE'VE HAD OUR  
DIFFERENCES,  
AND... WELL...  
JUST  
THANKS.

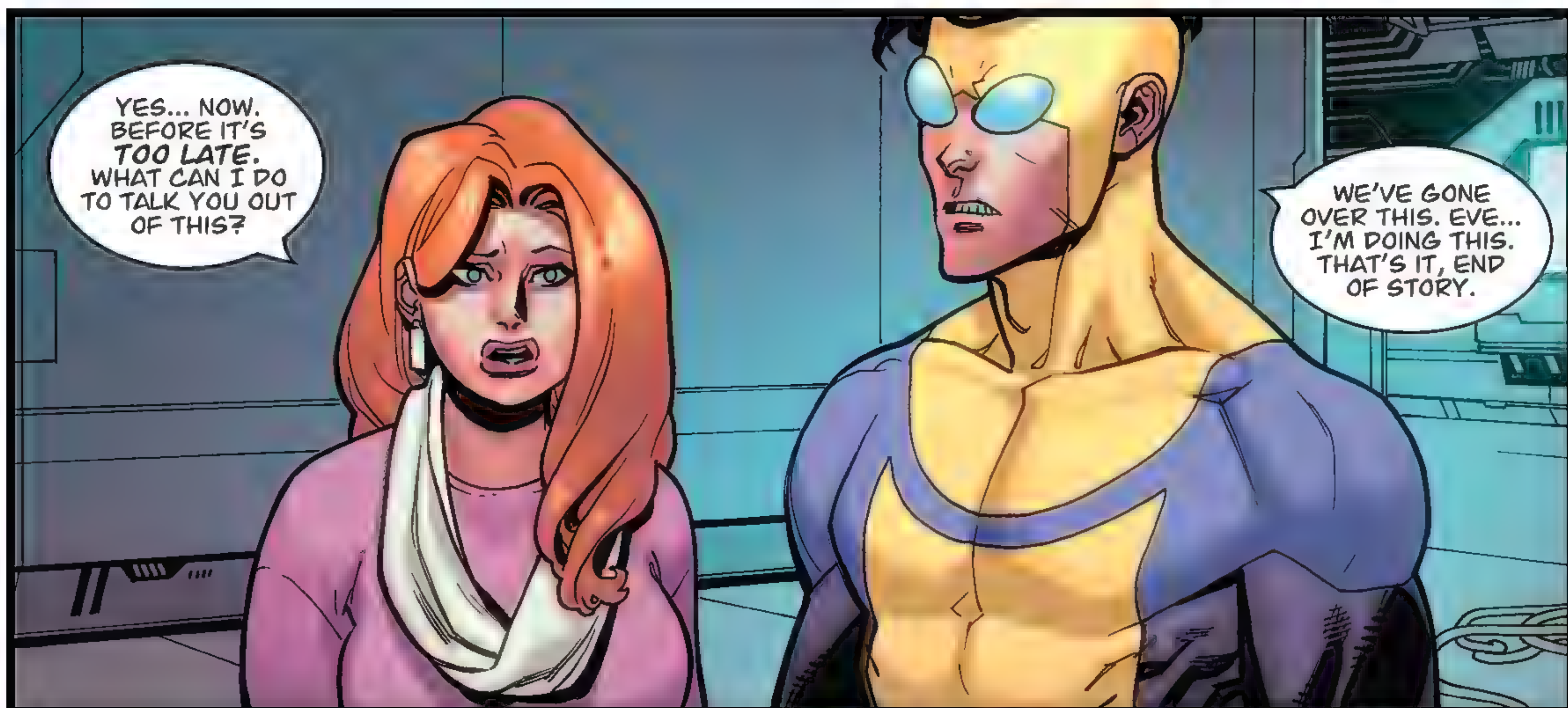


MARK,  
THIS...  
THIS ISN'T  
NECESSARY.



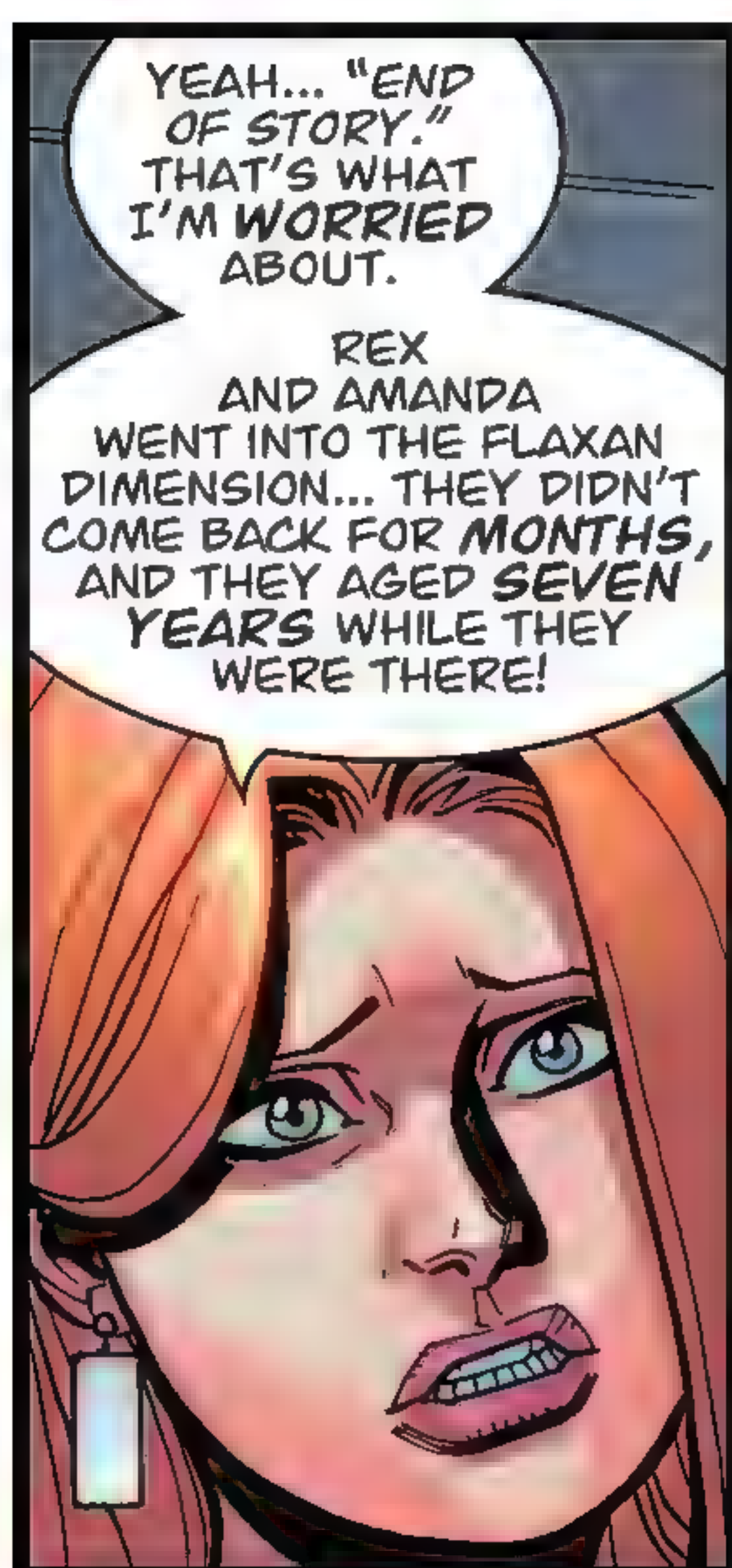
EVE,  
PLEASE.  
NOT AGAIN.  
NOT NOW.





YES... NOW.  
BEFORE IT'S  
TOO LATE.  
WHAT CAN I DO  
TO TALK YOU OUT  
OF THIS?

WE'VE GONE  
OVER THIS. EVE...  
I'M DOING THIS.  
THAT'S IT, END  
OF STORY.



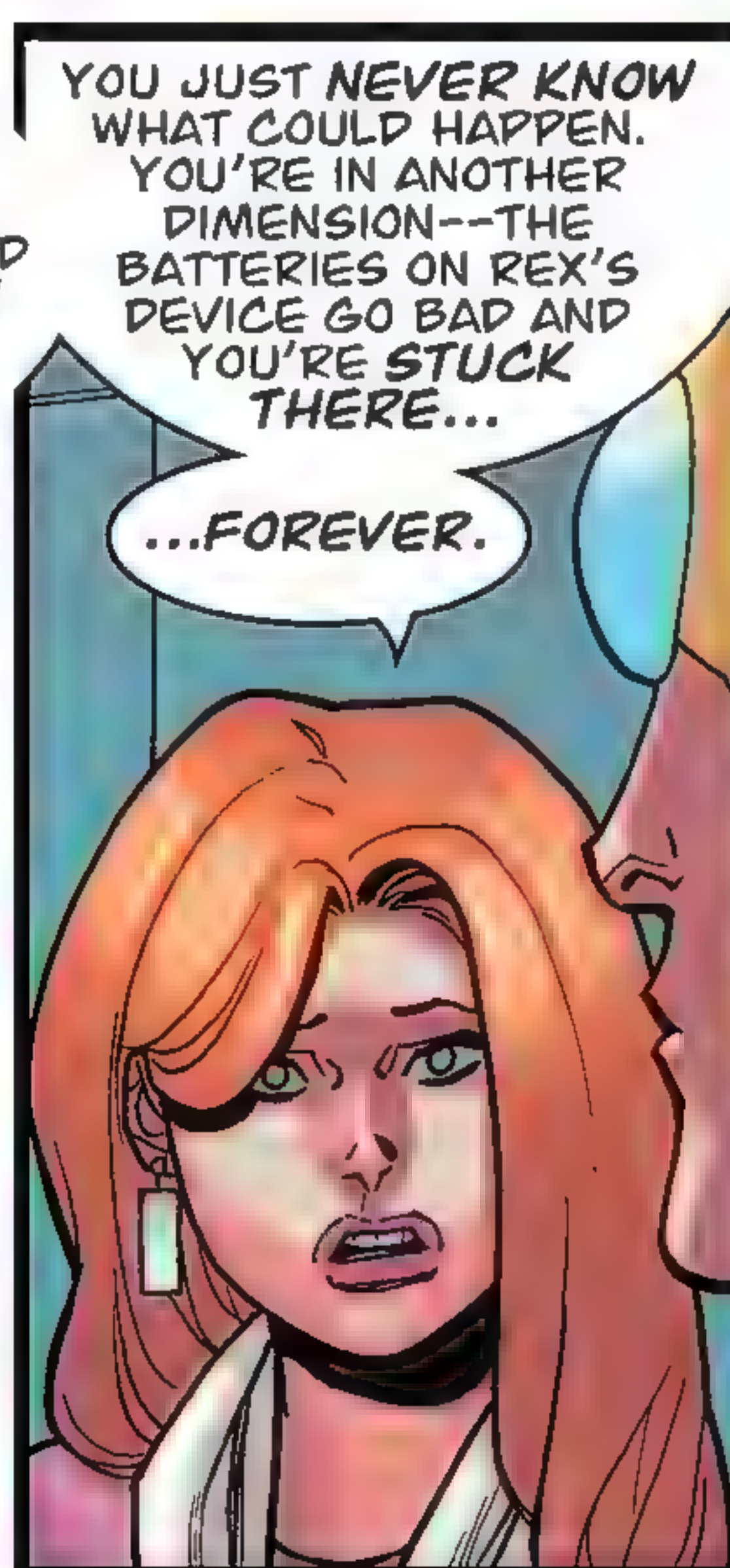
YEAH... "END  
OF STORY."  
THAT'S WHAT  
I'M WORRIED  
ABOUT.

REX  
AND AMANDA  
WENT INTO THE FLAXAN  
DIMENSION... THEY DIDN'T  
COME BACK FOR MONTHS,  
AND THEY AGED SEVEN  
YEARS WHILE THEY  
WERE THERE!



THAT WAS A  
COMPLETELY  
DIFFERENT  
SITUATION.

THAT'S  
JUST IT...  
THIS COULD  
BE EVEN  
WORSE.



YOU JUST NEVER KNOW  
WHAT COULD HAPPEN.  
YOU'RE IN ANOTHER  
DIMENSION--THE  
BATTERIES ON REX'S  
DEVICE GO BAD AND  
YOU'RE STUCK  
THERE...

...FOREVER.



ONE, THAT'S NOT GOING TO  
HAPPEN. TWO, I HAVE TO  
DO THIS. ANGSTROM LEVY  
COULD ATTACK AT ANY TIME.  
HE KNOWS WHO I AM,  
WHERE WE LIVE, HATES ME,  
WANTS TO HURT THOSE  
CLOSEST TO ME...  
REMEMBER?

WE HAVE  
BEEN OVER  
THIS.



I KNOW,  
BUT...

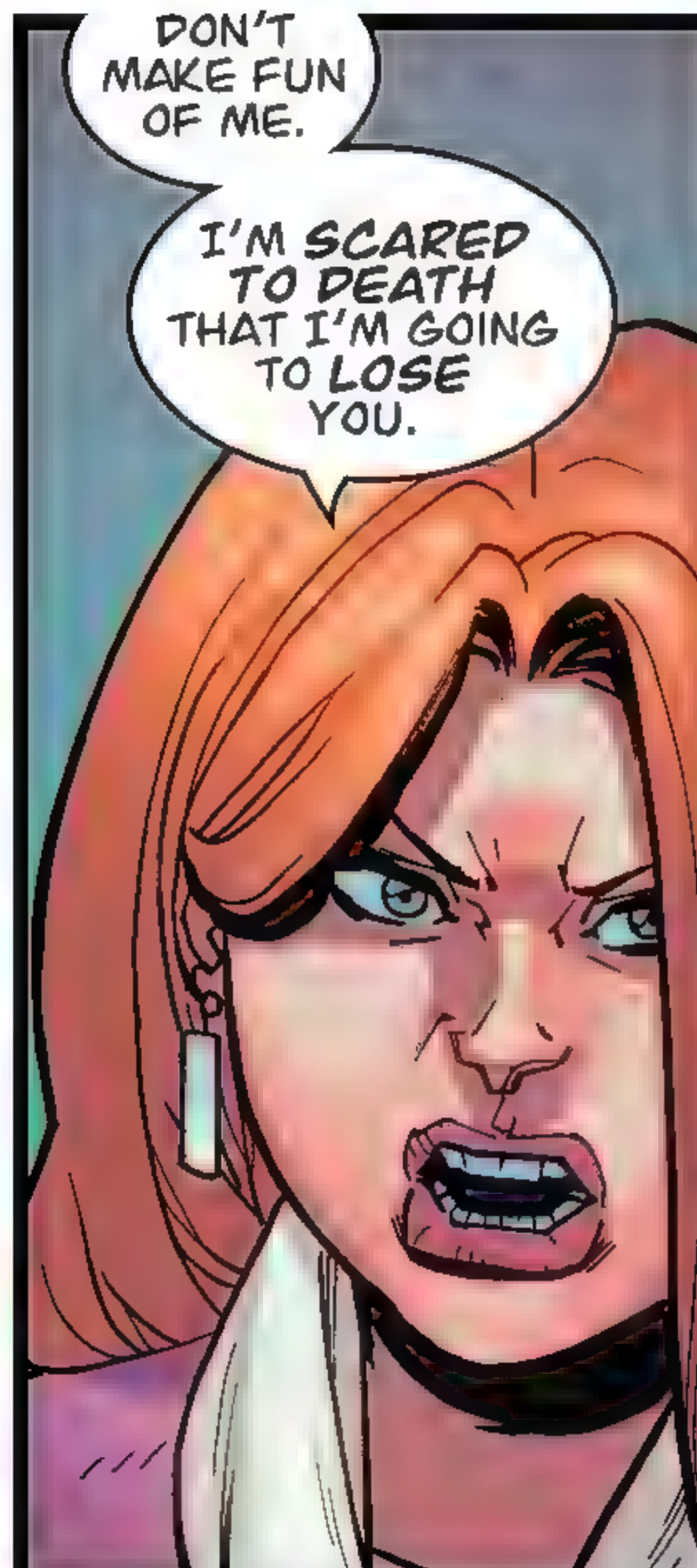
LOOK, I  
HAVE A  
REALLY BAD...  
FEELING...

OKAY?



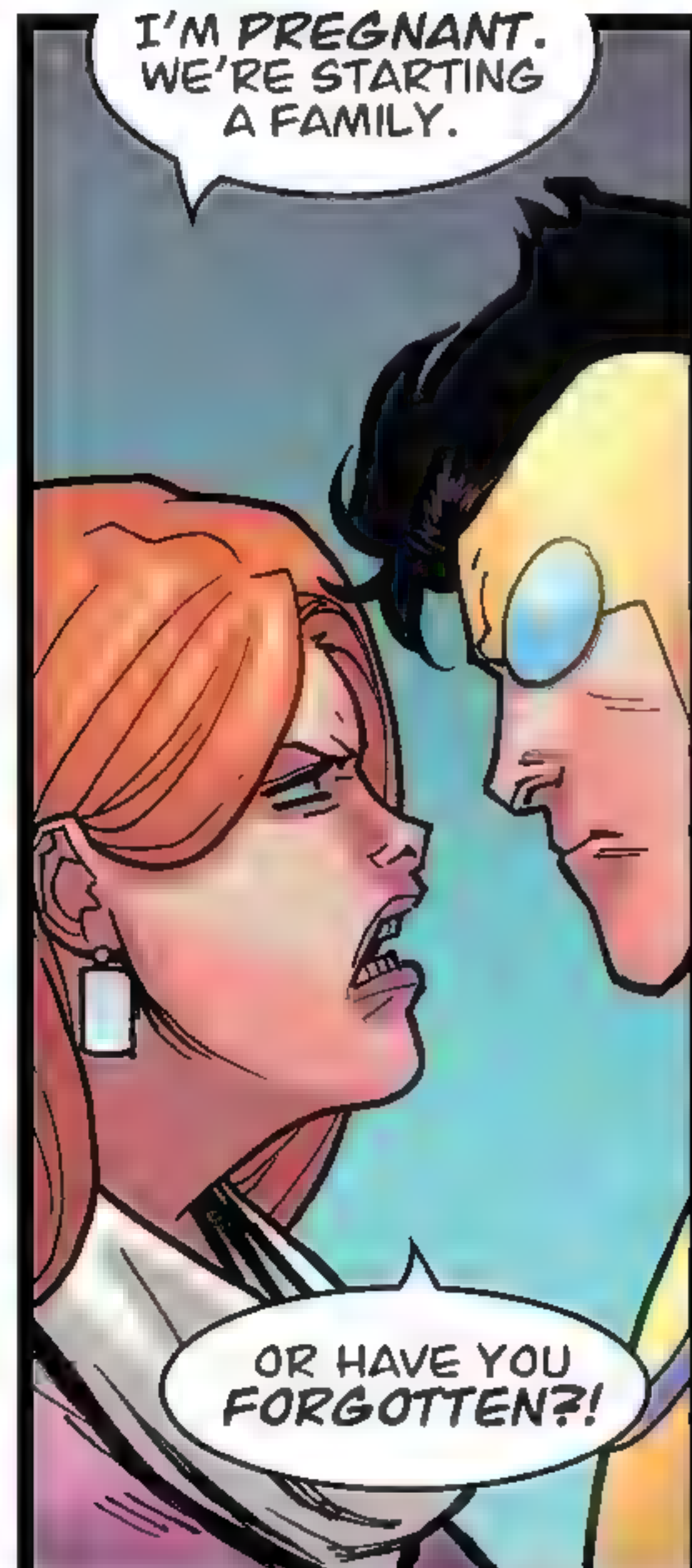
A BAD FEELING?  
AM I REALLY  
SUPPOSED TO PUT  
A LOT OF STOCK  
INTO THAT?

HAVE YOU  
SUDDENLY GAINED  
SOME KIND OF  
CLAIRVOYANT  
POWERS?



DON'T  
MAKE FUN  
OF ME.

I'M SCARED  
TO DEATH  
THAT I'M GOING  
TO LOSE  
YOU.



I'M PREGNANT.  
WE'RE STARTING  
A FAMILY.

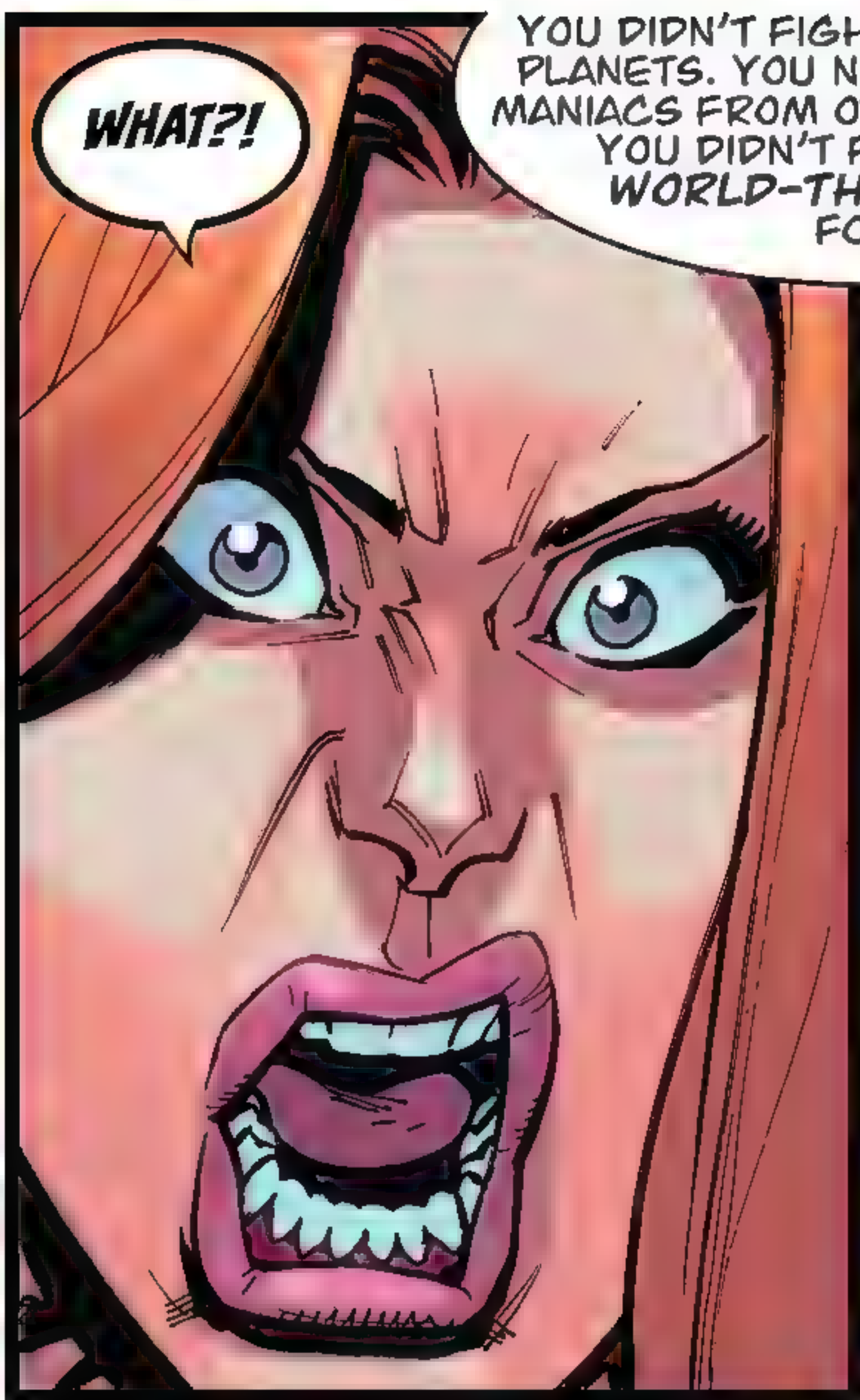
OR HAVE YOU  
FORGOTTEN?!





THAT'S LITERALLY ALL I'M THINKING ABOUT HERE! GETTING THIS TAKEN CARE OF BEFORE IT CAN DISRUPT... EVEN DESTROY OUR FAMILY.

LOOK, WE'VE HAD THIS ARGUMENT NOW, OVER AND OVER... SO MANY TIMES. I THINK THE PROBLEM HERE IS THAT WHEN YOU WERE RUNNING AROUND IN COSTUME--YOU NEVER DEALT WITH ANYTHING ON THE SAME SCALE AS I DO... EVERY SINGLE DAY.



WHAT?!

YOU DIDN'T FIGHT WARS ON ALIEN PLANETS. YOU NEVER DEALT WITH MANIACS FROM OTHER DIMENSIONS. YOU DIDN'T FACE A LOT OF WORLD-THREATENING FOES.



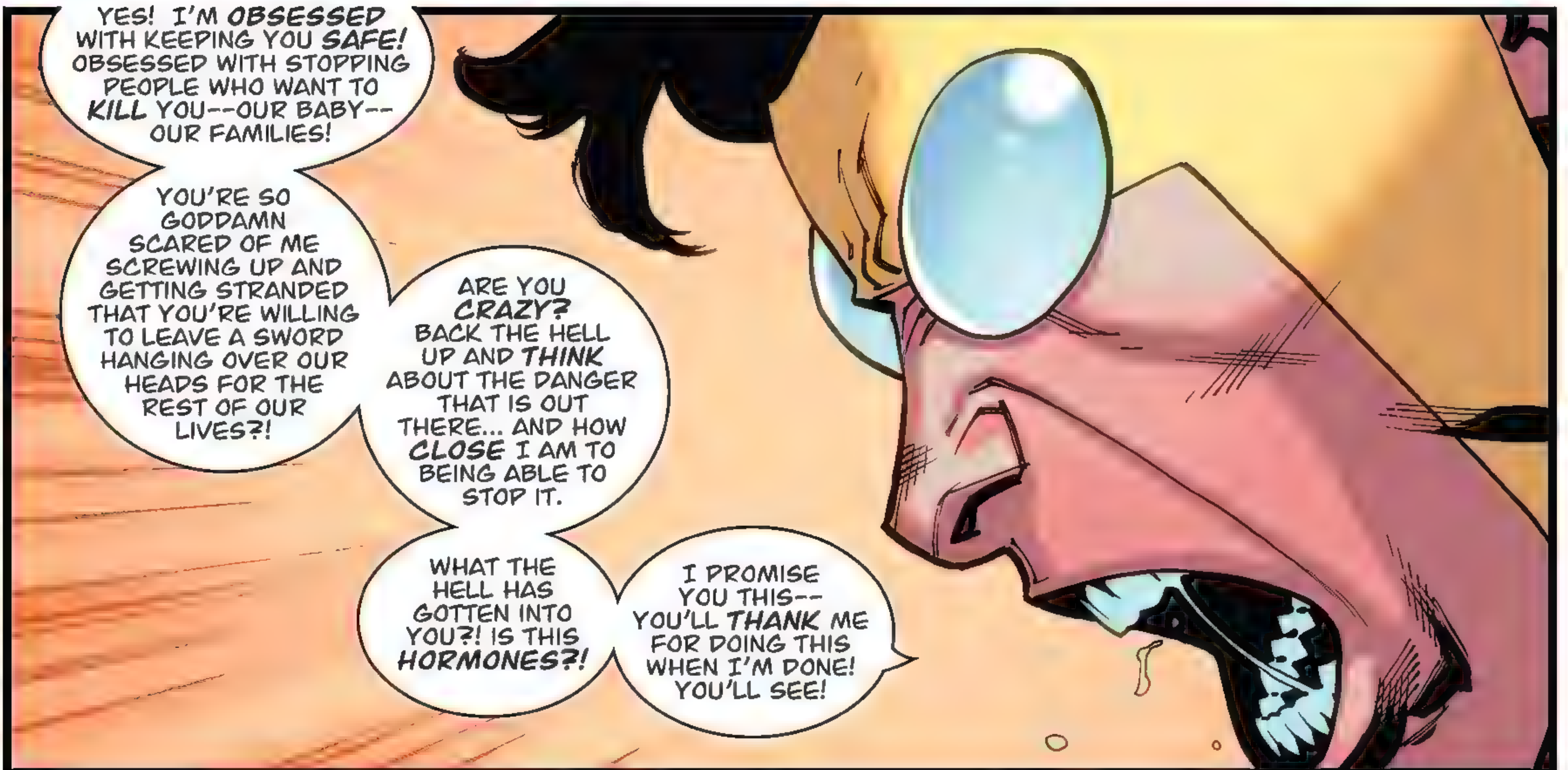
I CAN SEE HOW SOMETHING LIKE THIS COULD SCARE YOU.



OH, BULLSHIT, MARK. I NEVER FOUGHT THE SEQUIDS?!

DID YOU FORGET CONQUEST? I'VE BEEN AROUND, OKAY? THIS ISN'T A CASE OF ME BEING NAIVE.

IT'S A CASE OF YOU BEING OBSESSED... AND BECOMING BLINDED BY THAT.



YES! I'M OBSESSED WITH KEEPING YOU SAFE! OBSESSED WITH STOPPING PEOPLE WHO WANT TO KILL YOU--OUR BABY--OUR FAMILIES!

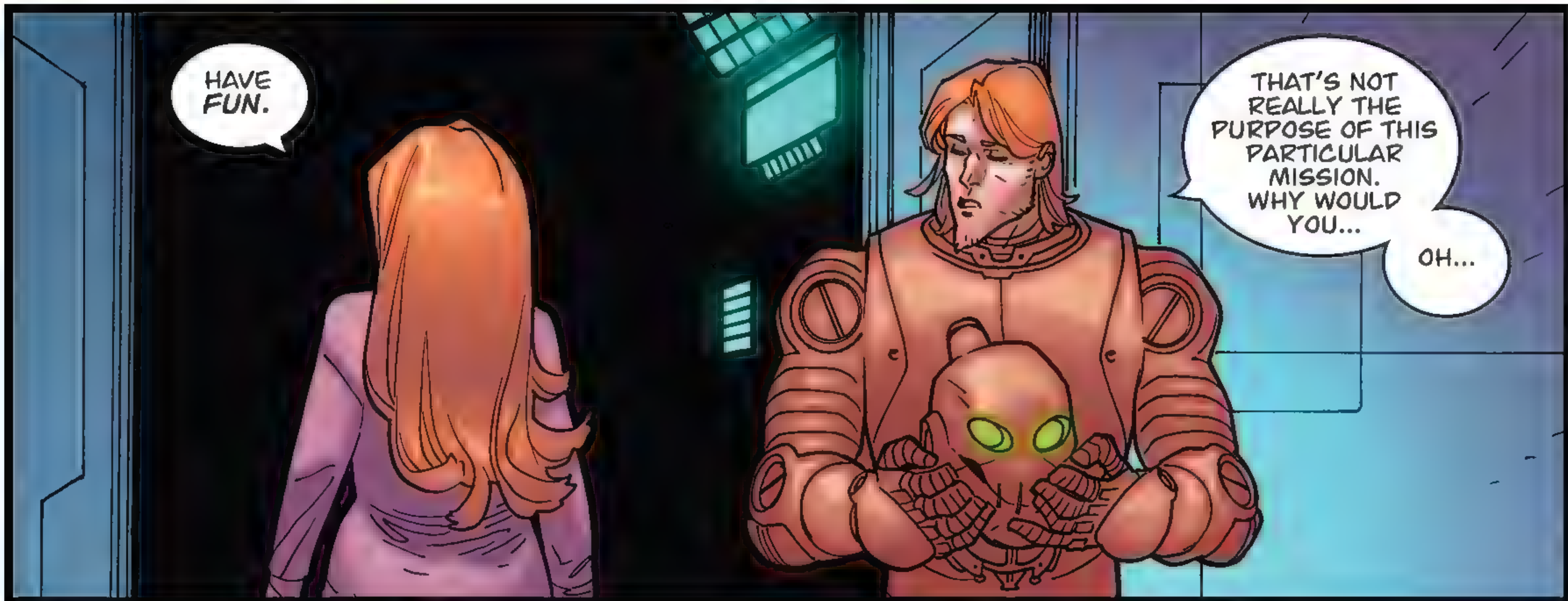
YOU'RE SO GODDAMN SCARED OF ME SCREWING UP AND GETTING STRANDED THAT YOU'RE WILLING TO LEAVE A SWORD HANGING OVER OUR HEADS FOR THE REST OF OUR LIVES?!

ARE YOU CRAZY? BACK THE HELL UP AND THINK ABOUT THE DANGER THAT IS OUT THERE... AND HOW CLOSE I AM TO BEING ABLE TO STOP IT.

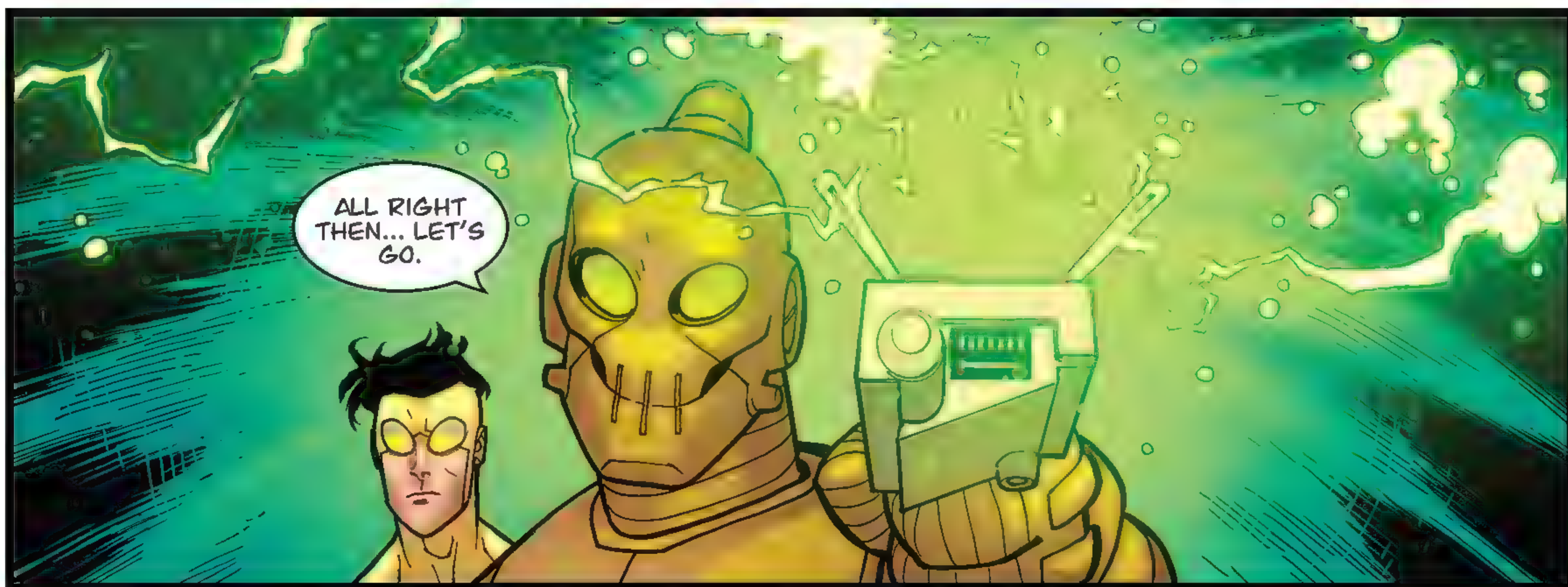
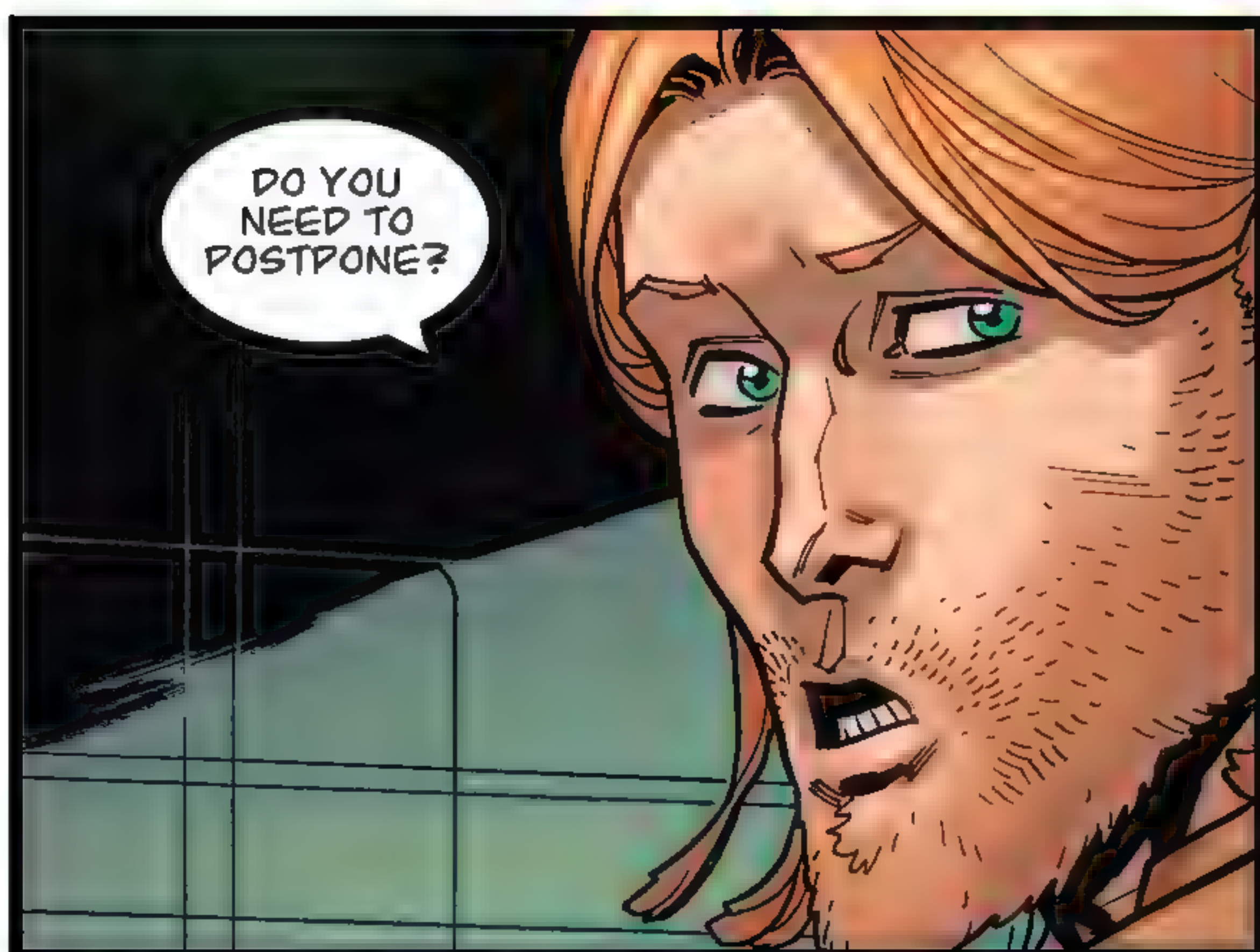
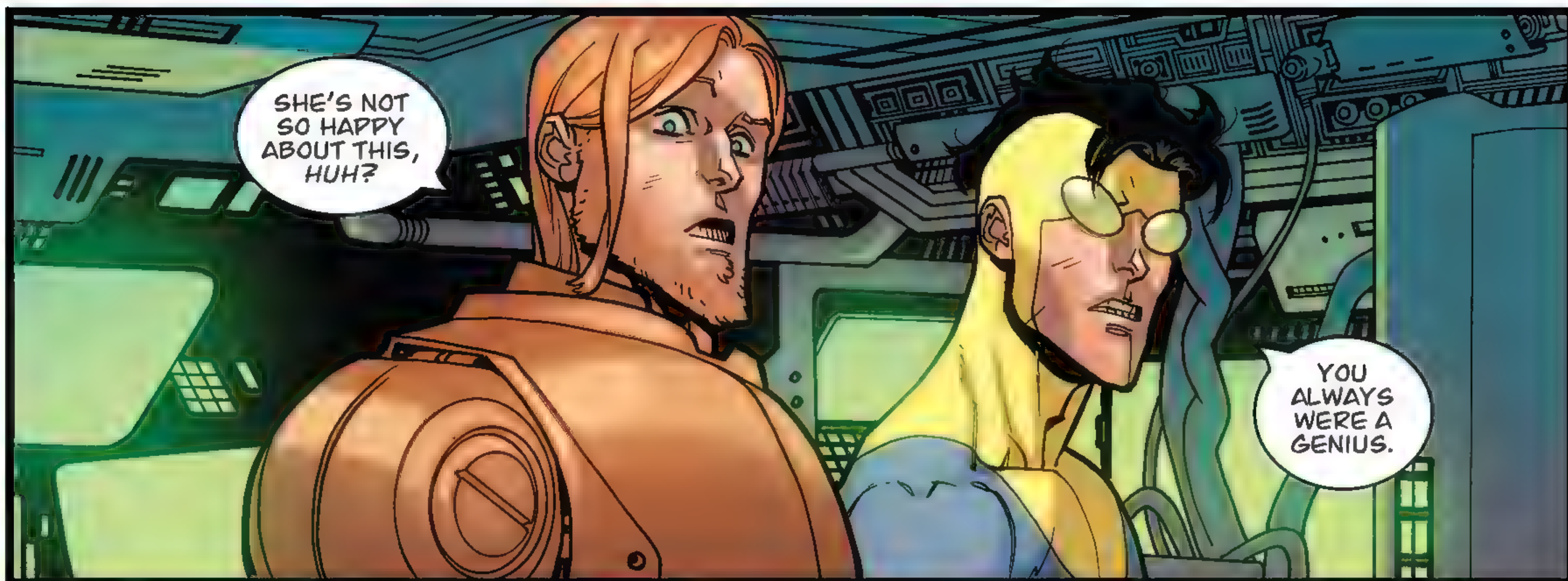
WHAT THE HELL HAS GOTTEN INTO YOU?! IS THIS HORMONES?!

I PROMISE YOU THIS-- YOU'LL THANK ME FOR DOING THIS WHEN I'M DONE! YOU'LL SEE!

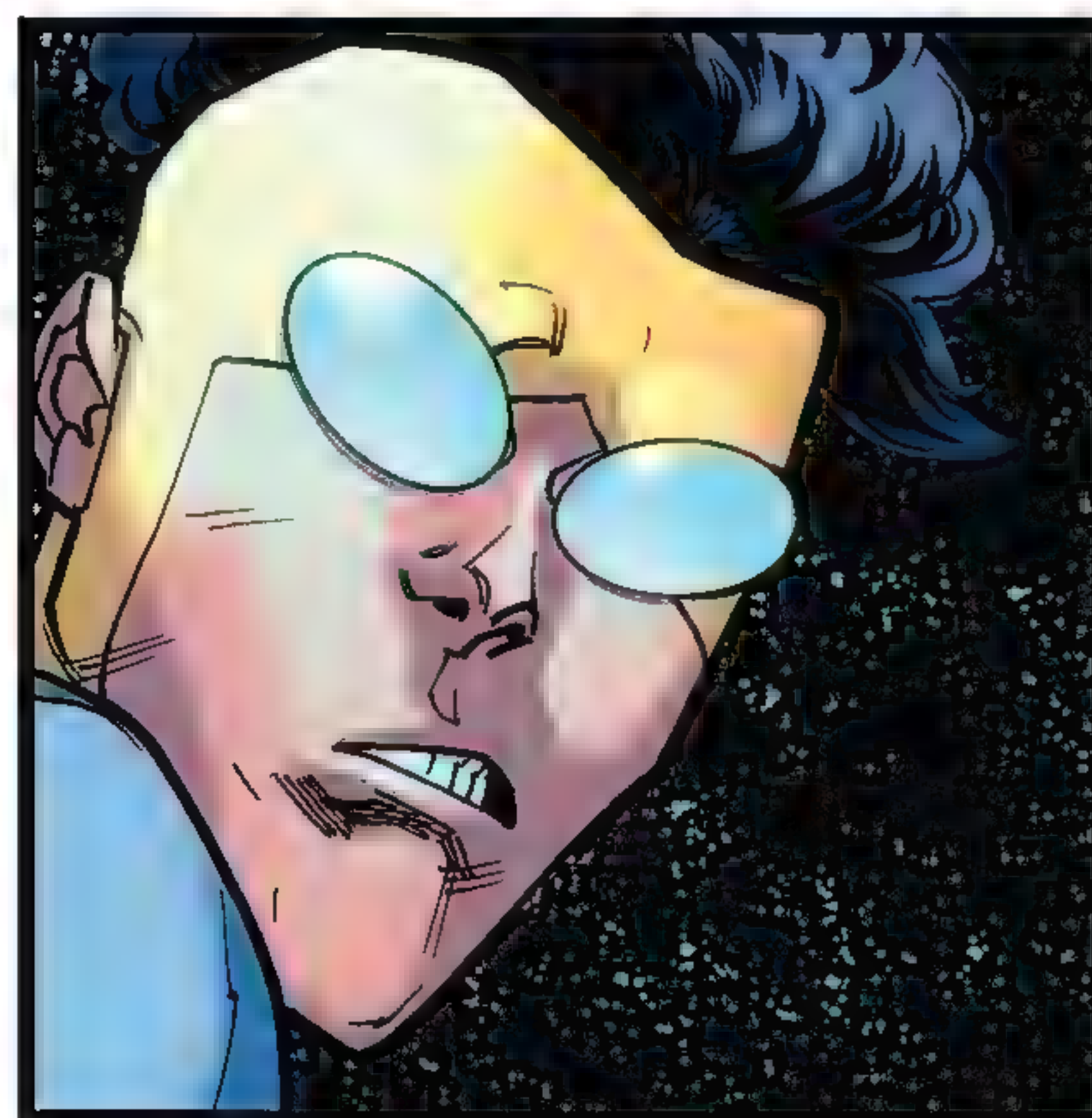
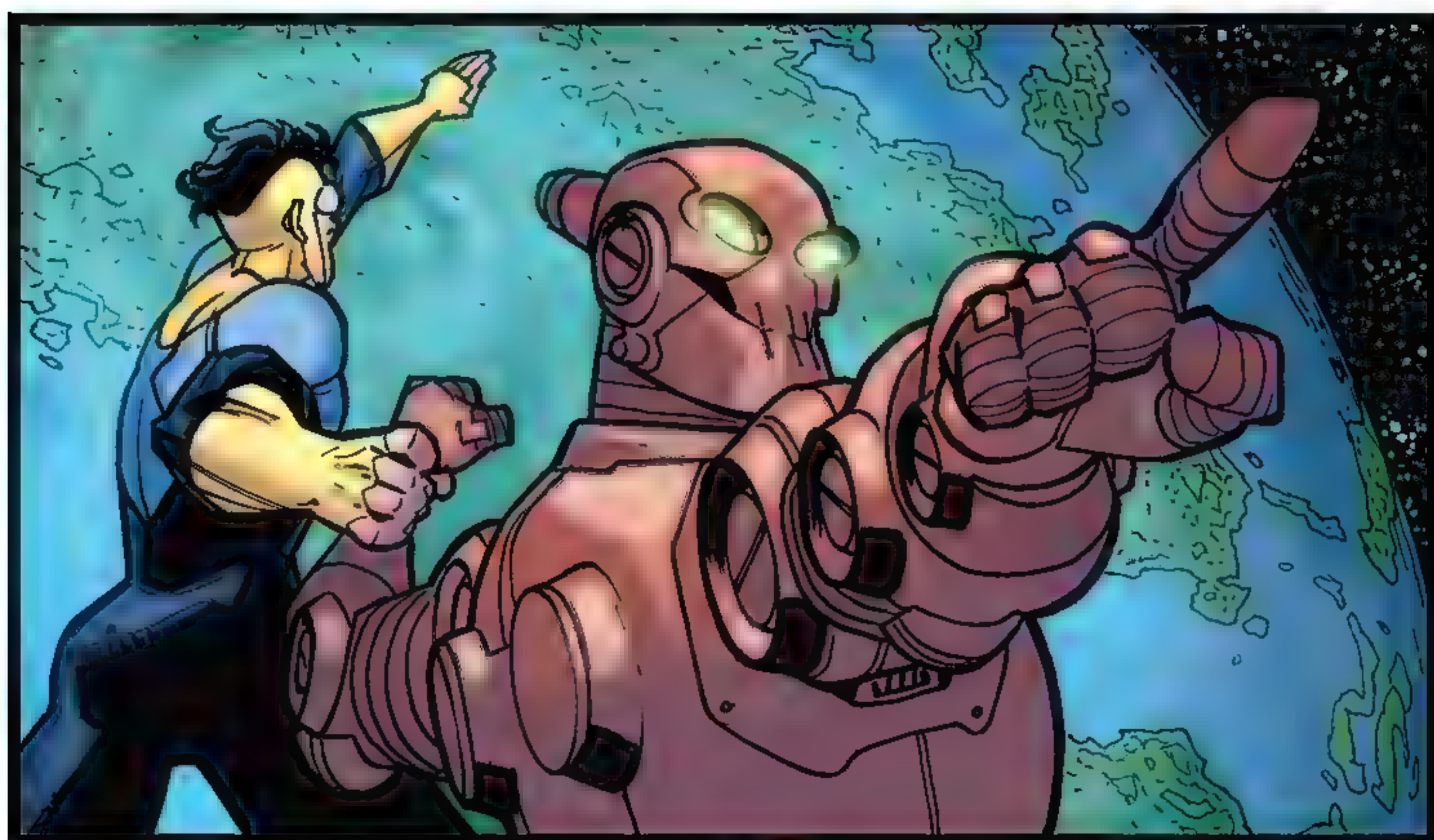
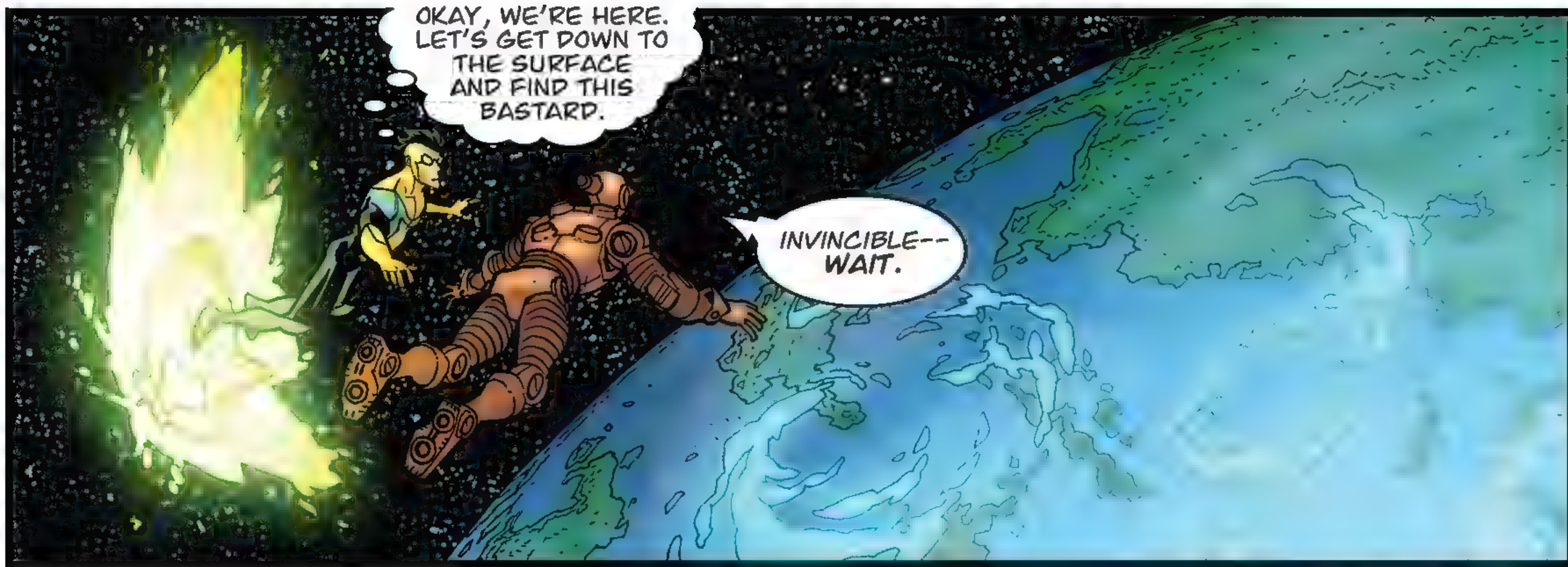




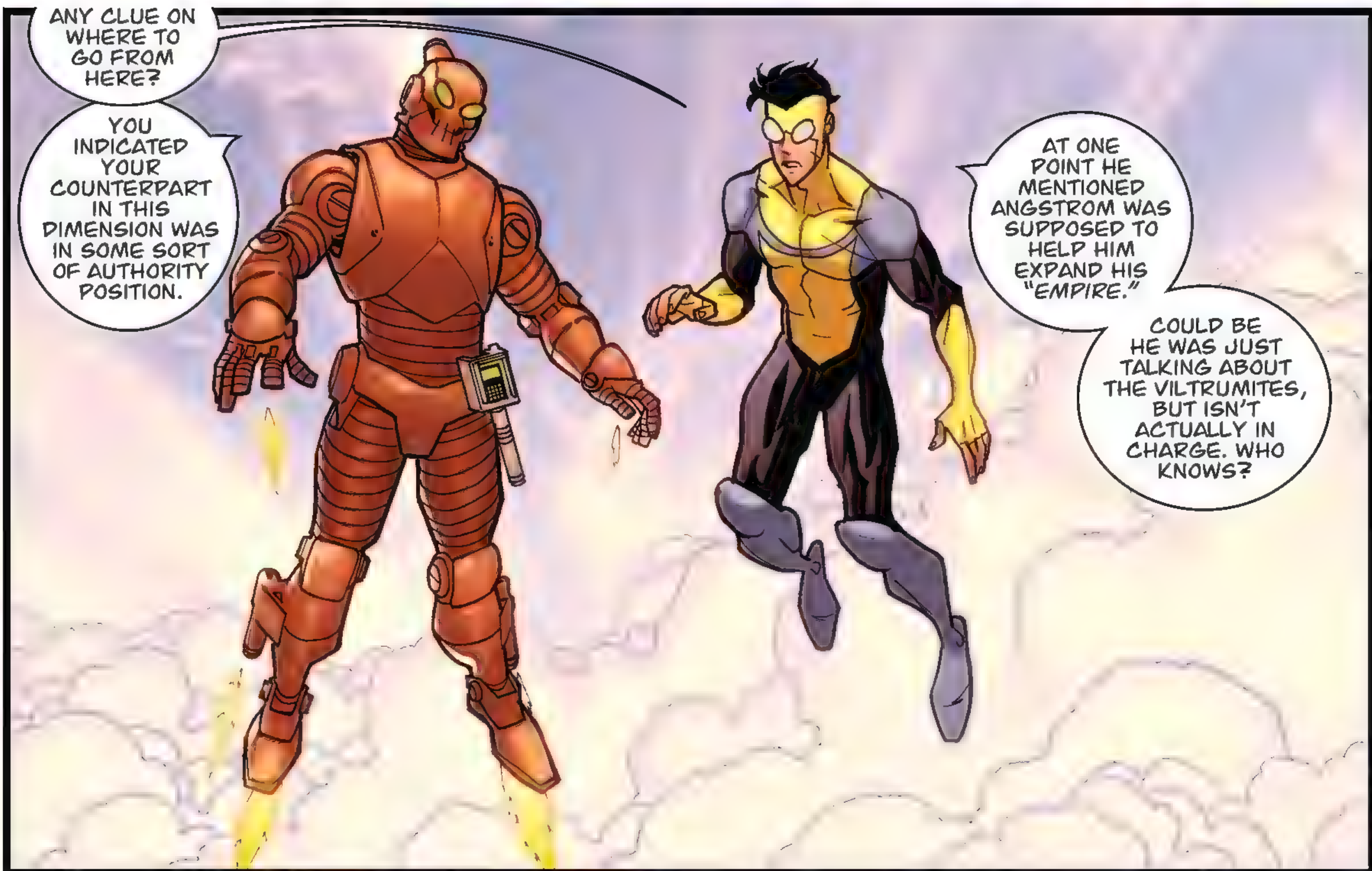
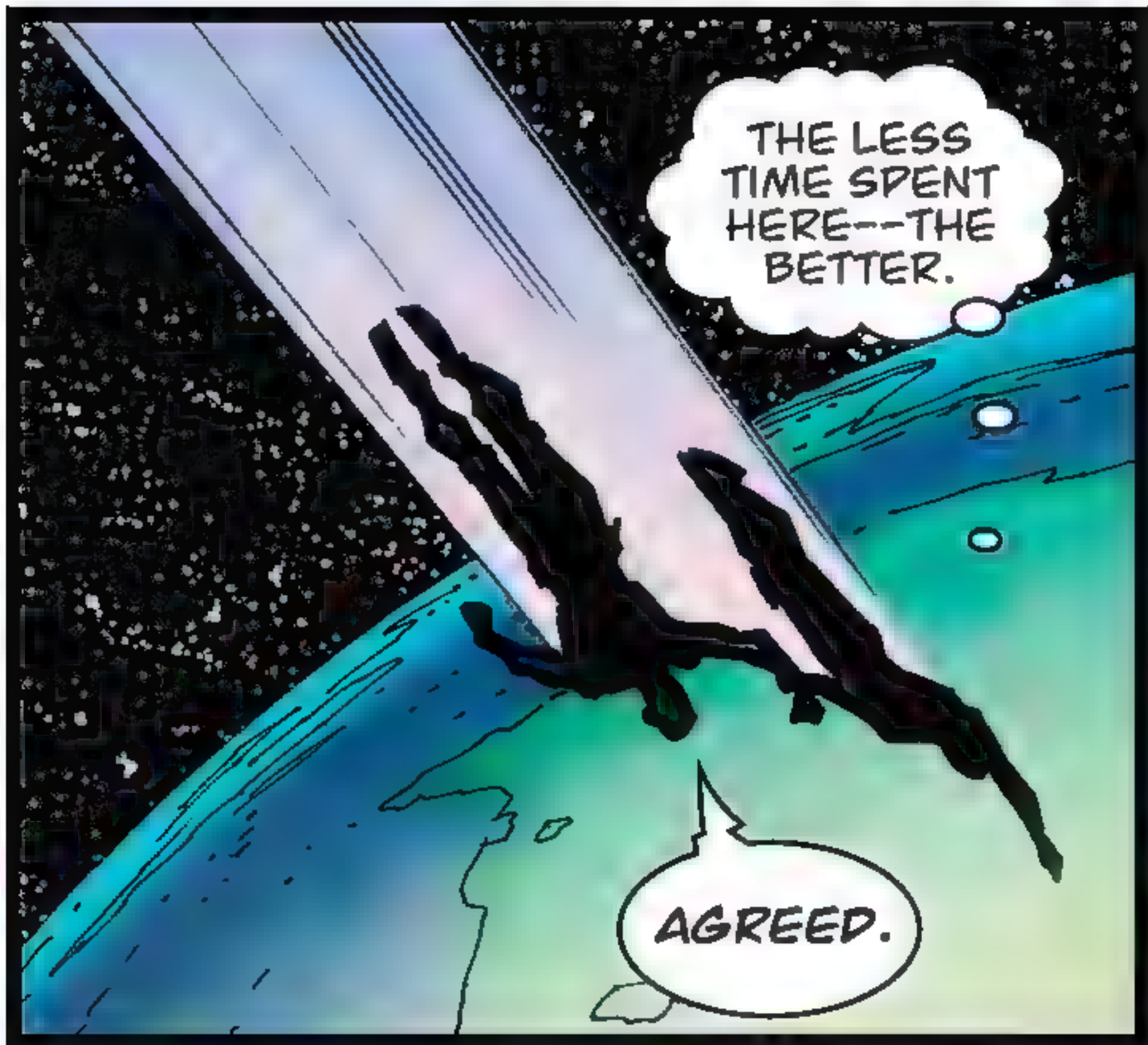












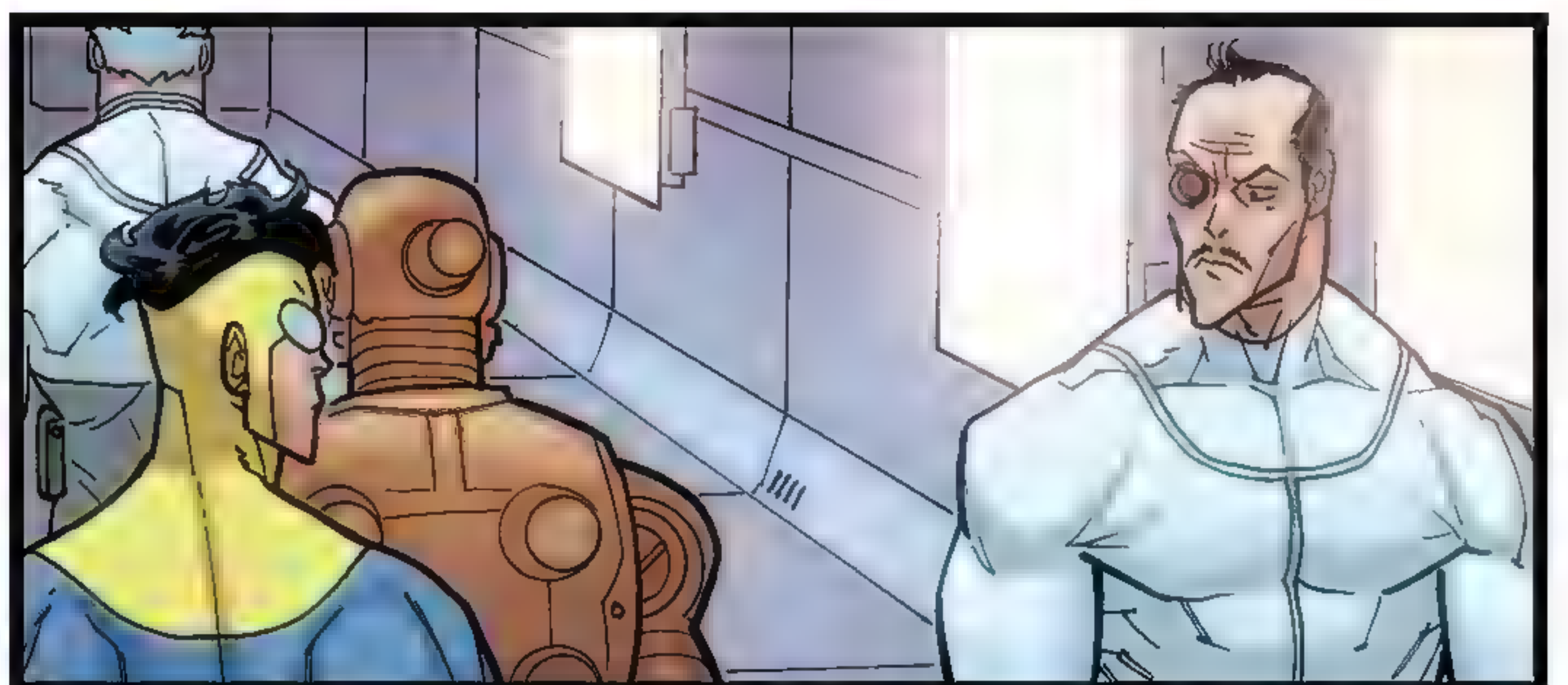
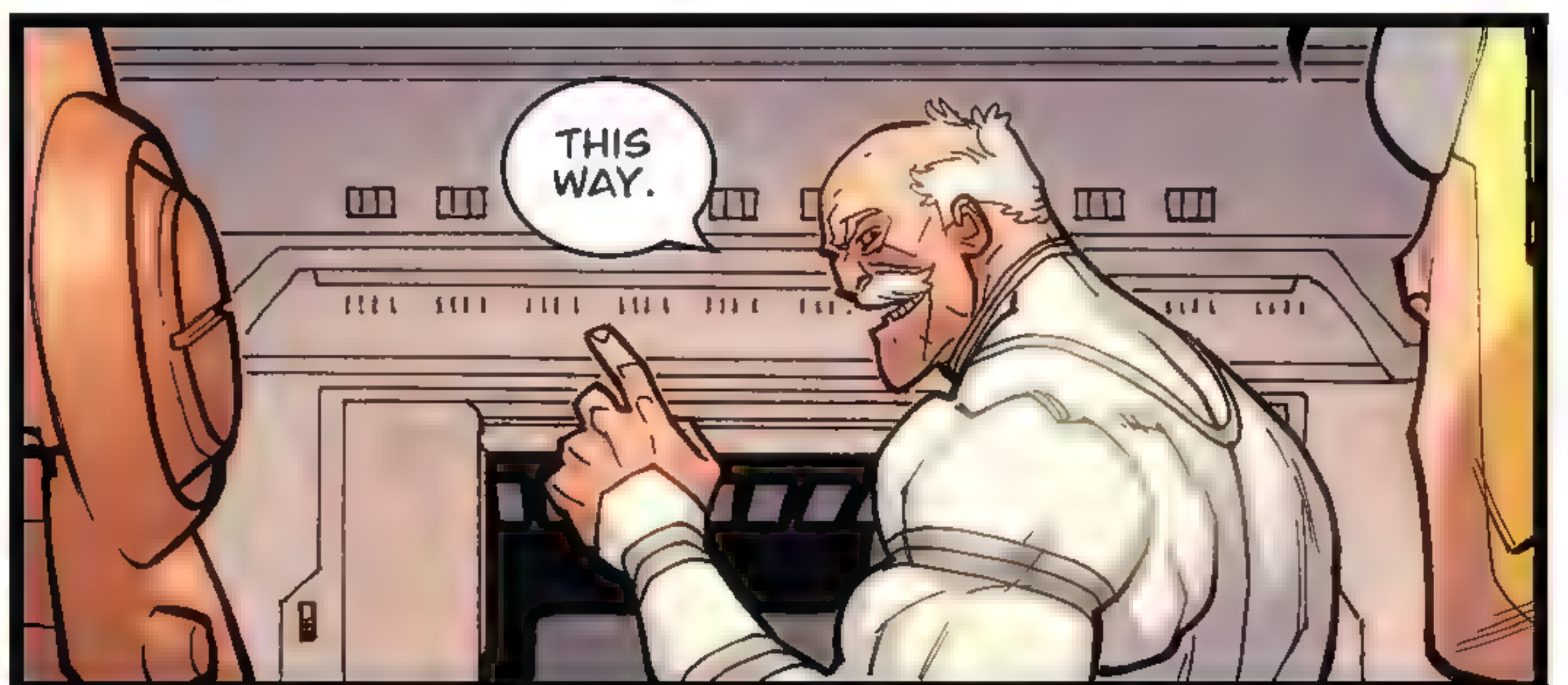
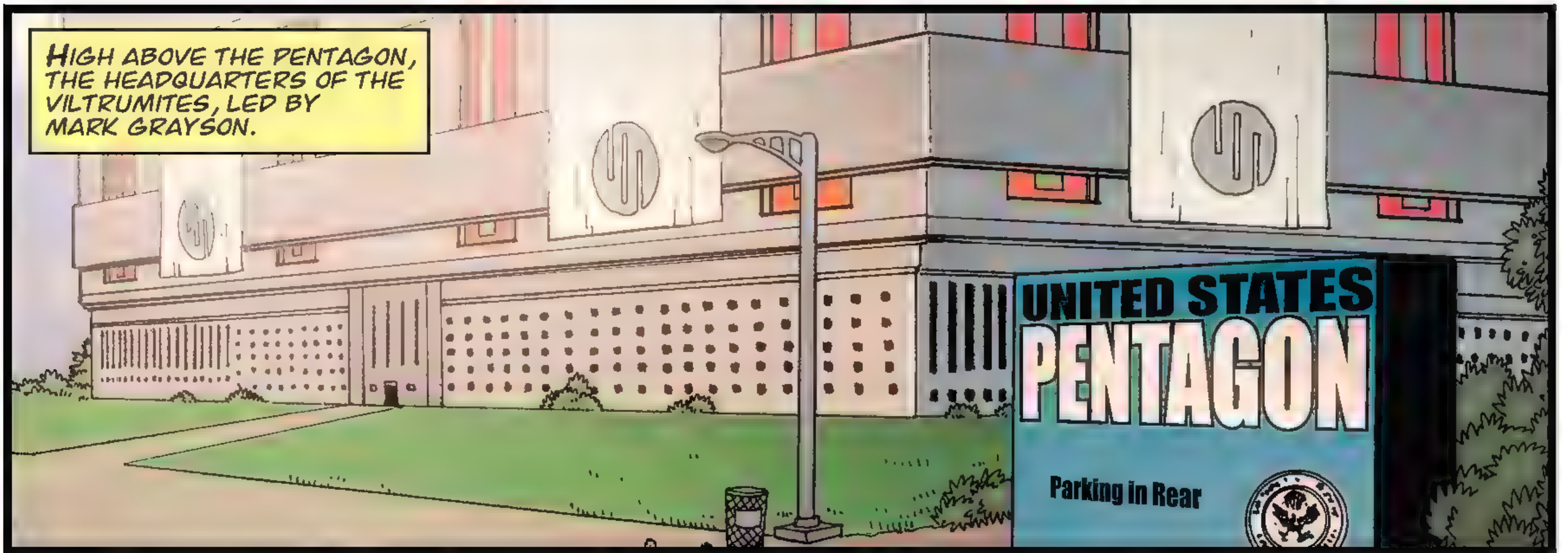


ACCOMPANY  
ME BACK TO  
THE CITADEL OR  
I WILL KILL  
YOU BOTH.

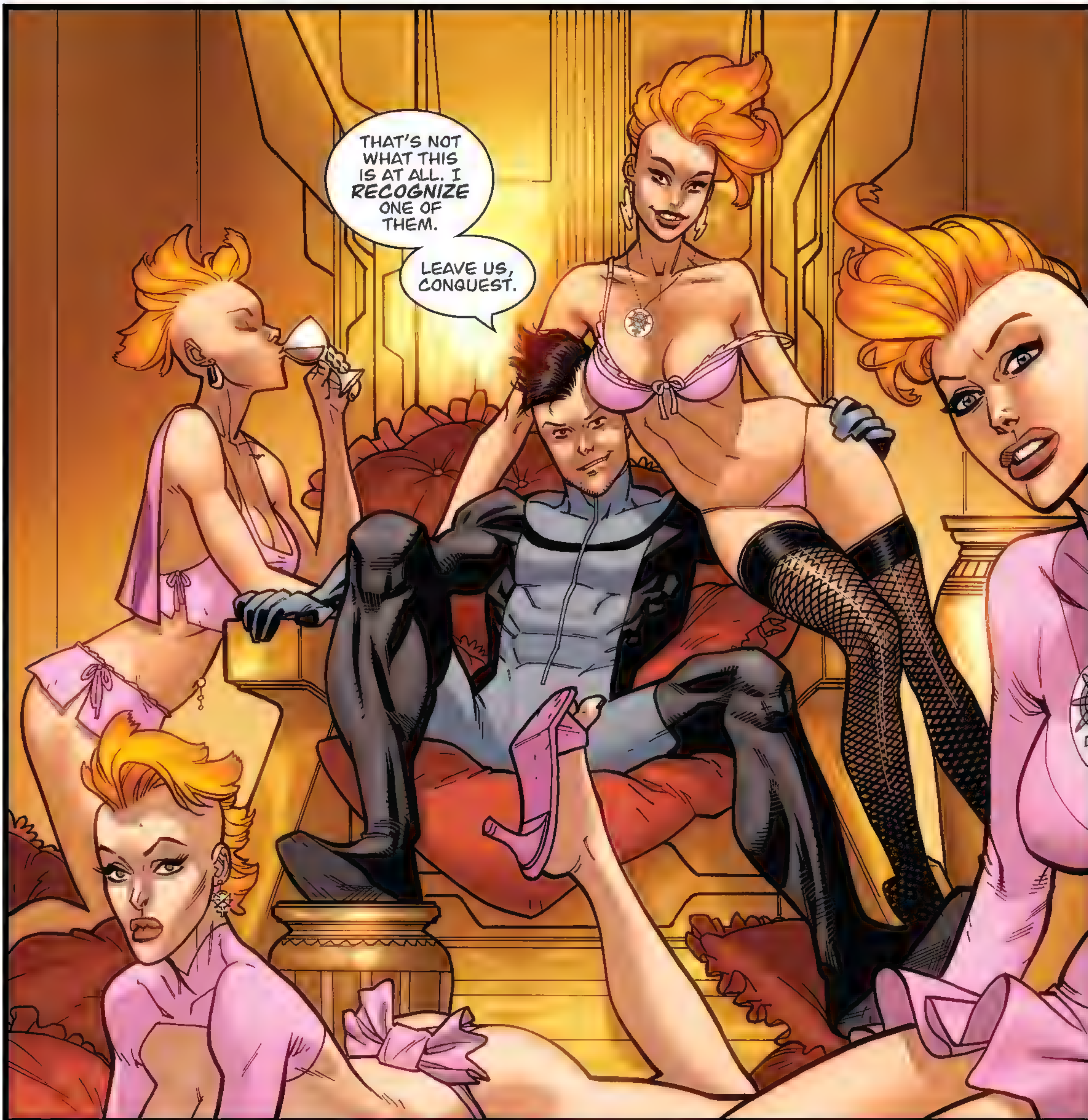
PLEASE  
RESIST...



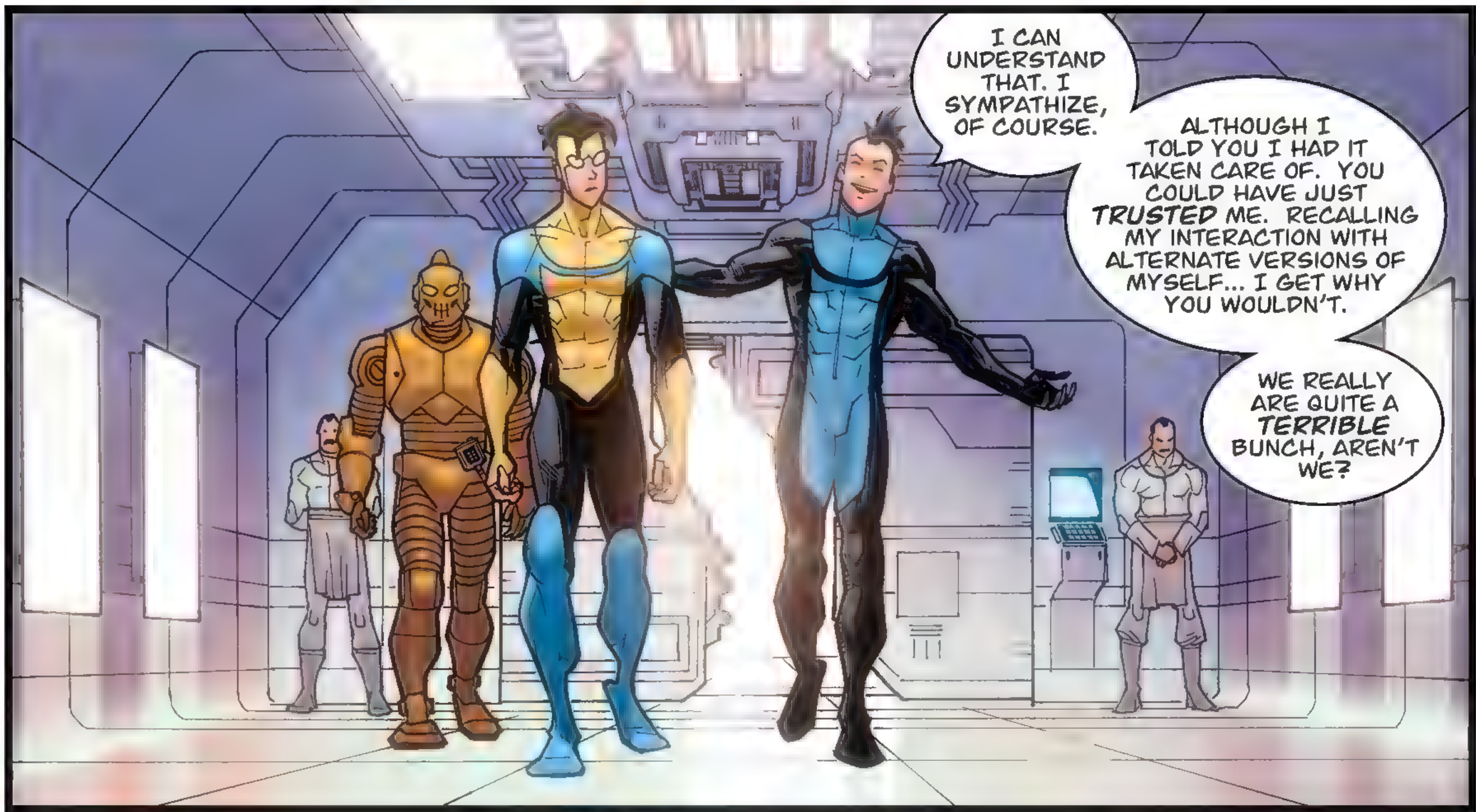




















SEE, THAT REACTION JUST Baffles ME. I CAN'T QUITE GET A READ ON YOU, MAN. I MEAN... YOU DID COME HERE TO MAKE SURE HE WAS DEAD, RIGHT?

OR KILL HIM YOURSELF?



I WASN'T GOING TO TORTURE HIM...



YOU KNOW... WE TALKED A LOT, THE OTHER VERSIONS OF US, WHEN WE WERE STRANDED IN THAT DIMENSION ALONE... BEFORE WE STARTED EATING EACH OTHER.



WE TALKED A LOT ABOUT WHAT TURNED US. A FEW OF US... OUR FATHERS ALWAYS RAISED US TO TAKE OVER. THE REST... THERE WAS SOMETHING ELSE THAT TURNED US... OPENED OUR EYES TO WHO WE REALLY WERE.

YOU HAVEN'T YET REALIZED HOW DIFFERENT YOU ARE FROM THE PEOPLE OF THIS PLANET. HOW STUPID IT IS FOR YOU TO WASTE ANY TIME PROTECTING THEM, FIGHTING FOR THEM... WITHOUT GETTING ANYTHING IN RETURN.

I'M GUESSING THAT HASN'T HAPPENED TO YOU YET.

WHEN THEY COULD BE WORSHIPPING YOU.



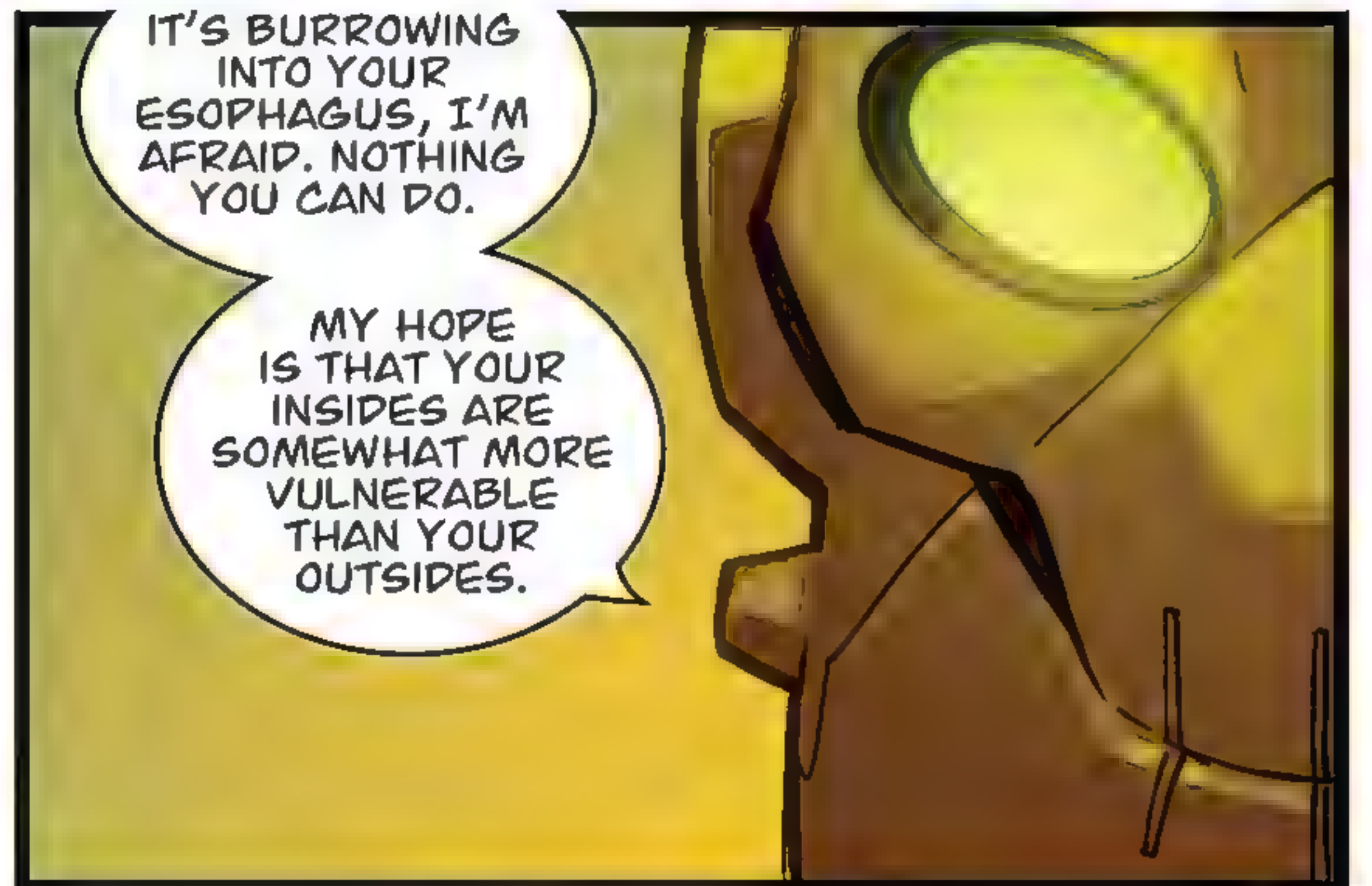
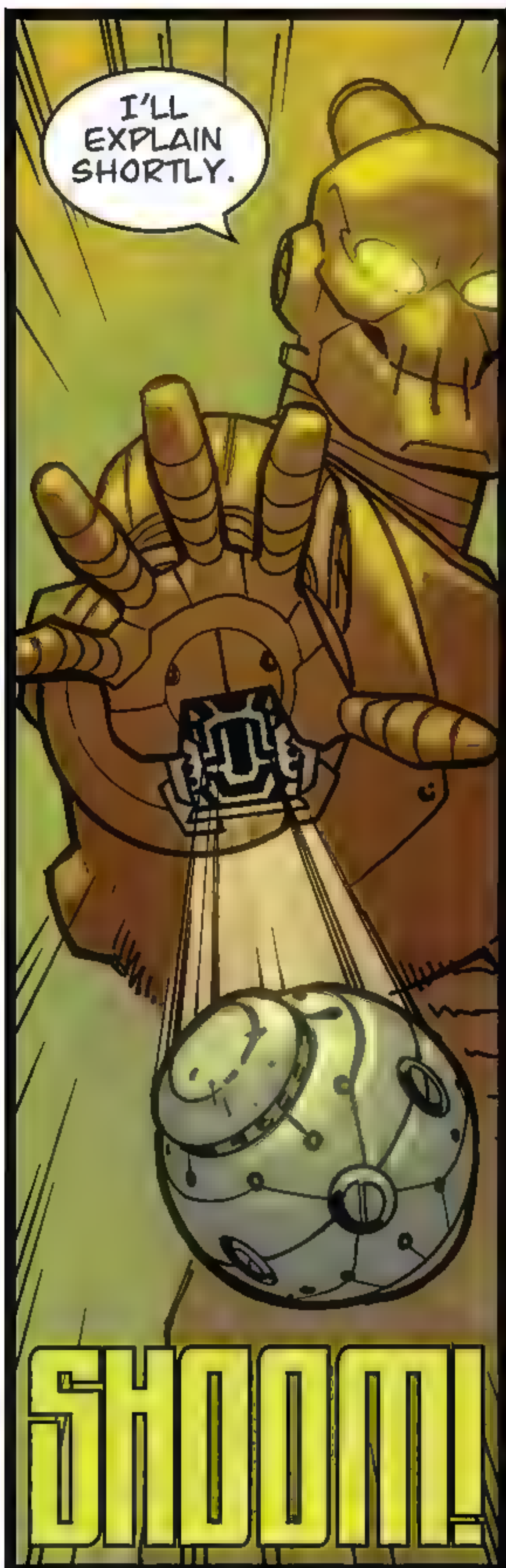
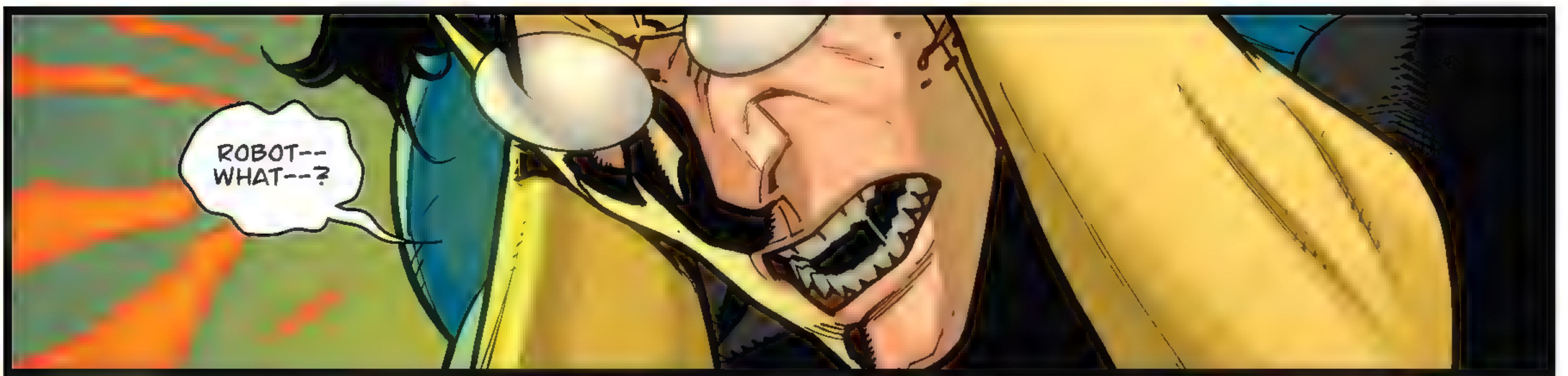
WHAT WAS IT ANGSTROM SAID? THAT HE WAS SURPRISED HOW FEW OF US WERE... "GOOD."





I'M REALLY  
SORRY, BUT I  
SEE NOW THAT  
I HAVE TO  
DO THIS.













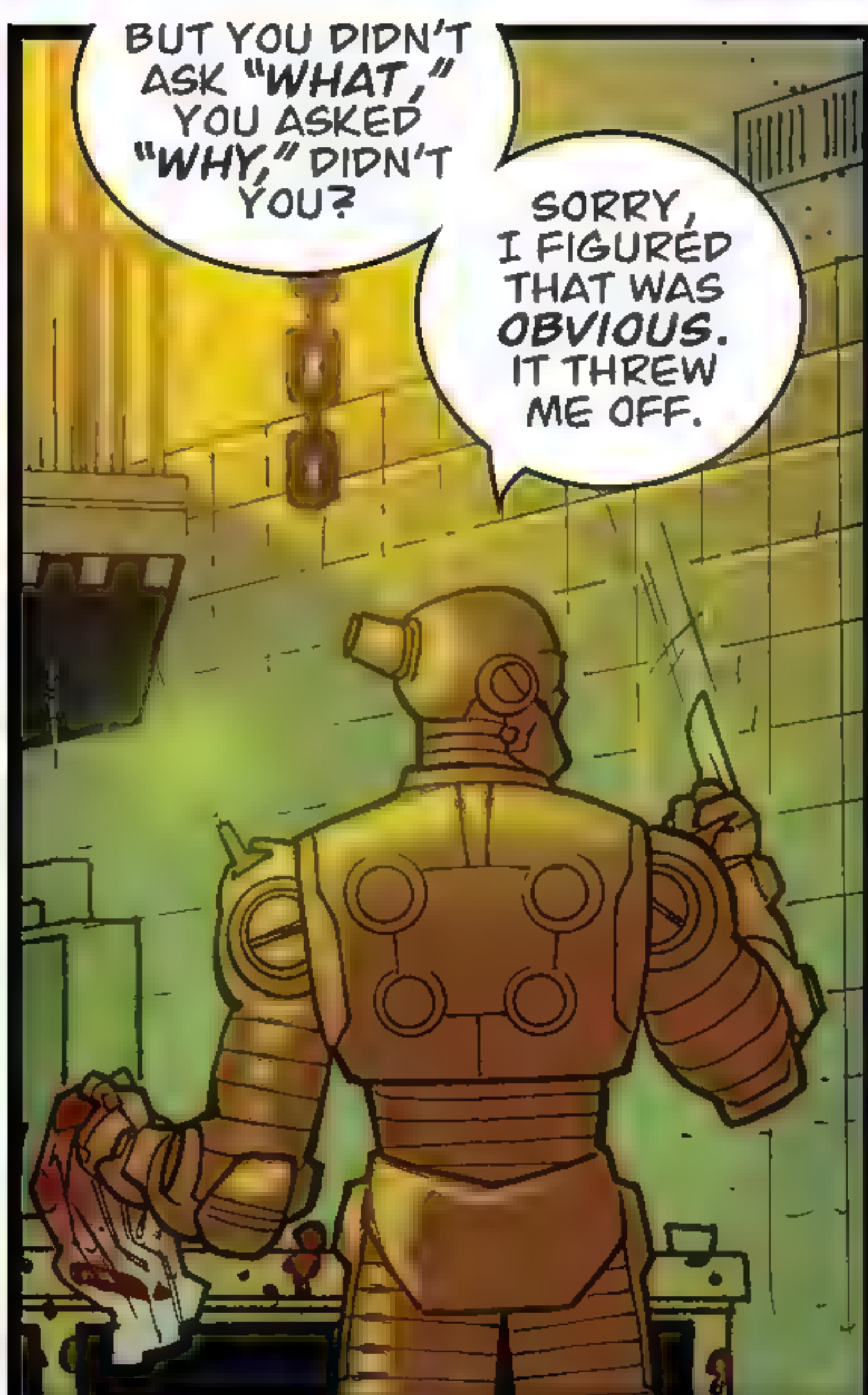
OKAY...  
THERE.  
THAT'S  
DONE.



WHAT YOU'RE EXPERIENCING  
IS A SONIC PULSE, VERY LOW  
LEVEL, **INAUDIBLE**...  
PROBABLY EVEN TO YOU...  
BUT IT HURTS  
LIKE HELL.

IT'S AN  
ENHANCED  
VERSION OF  
THE DEVICE  
CECIL HAD IN YOUR  
EARPIECE ALL  
THAT TIME  
AGO.

VILTRUMITE  
EQUILIBRIUM IS SO  
ADVANCED TO AID IN  
FLIGHT, THAT YOUR  
KIND IS EXTREMELY  
SUSCEPTIBLE TO  
ANYTHING THAT  
DISRUPTS INNER  
EAR FUNCTION.



BUT YOU DIDN'T  
ASK "WHAT,"  
YOU ASKED  
"WHY," DIDN'T  
YOU?

SORRY,  
I FIGURED  
THAT WAS  
**OBVIOUS**.  
IT THREW  
ME OFF.



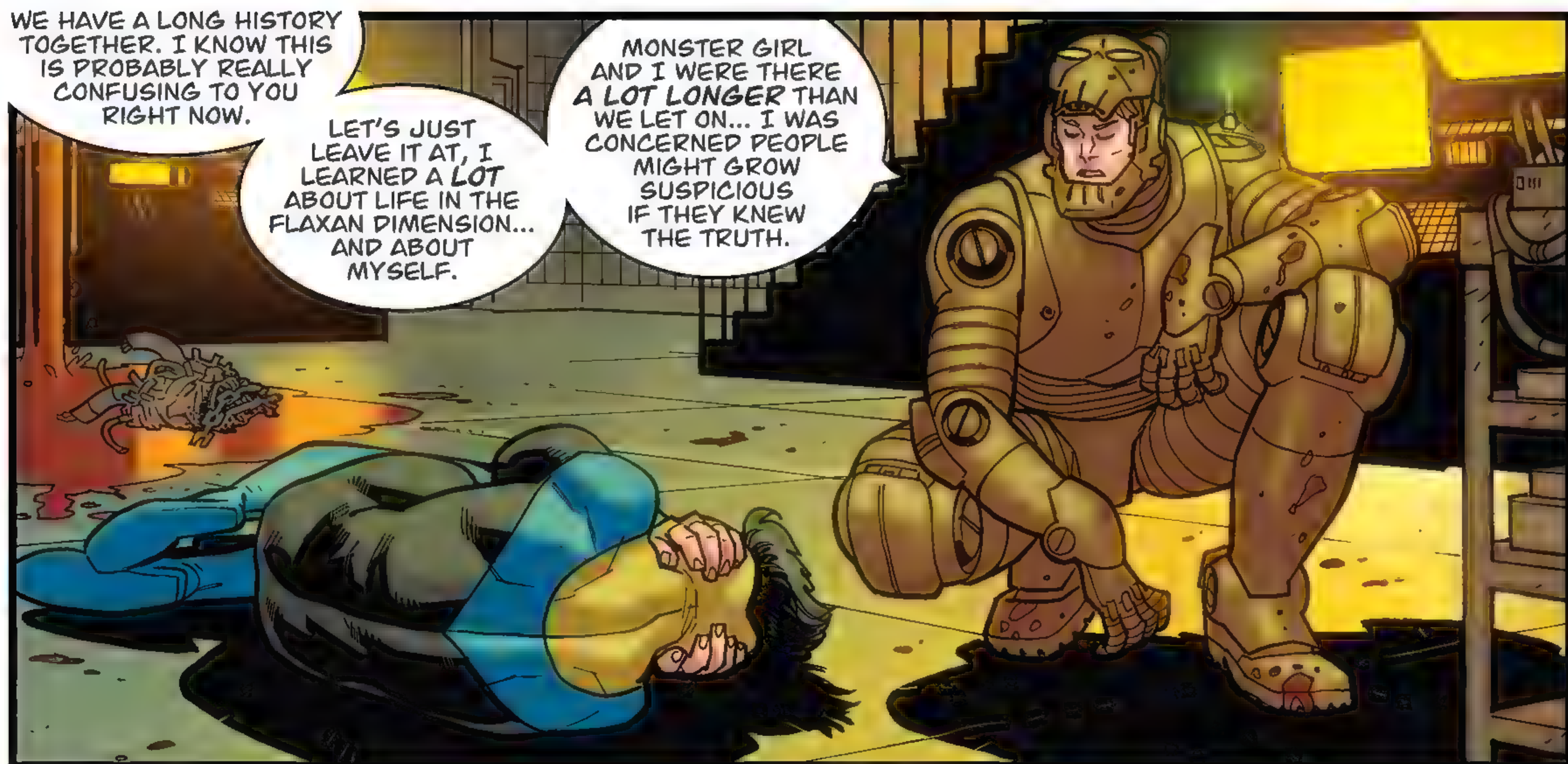
JUST--  
TURN IT  
OFF--  
WE--

--CAN  
TALK--



YOU REALLY  
THINK I'M THAT  
**STUPID**? YOU'VE  
KNOWN ME TOO  
LONG TO THINK  
THAT.





WE HAVE A LONG HISTORY TOGETHER. I KNOW THIS IS PROBABLY REALLY CONFUSING TO YOU RIGHT NOW.

LET'S JUST LEAVE IT AT, I LEARNED A LOT ABOUT LIFE IN THE FLAXAN DIMENSION... AND ABOUT MYSELF.

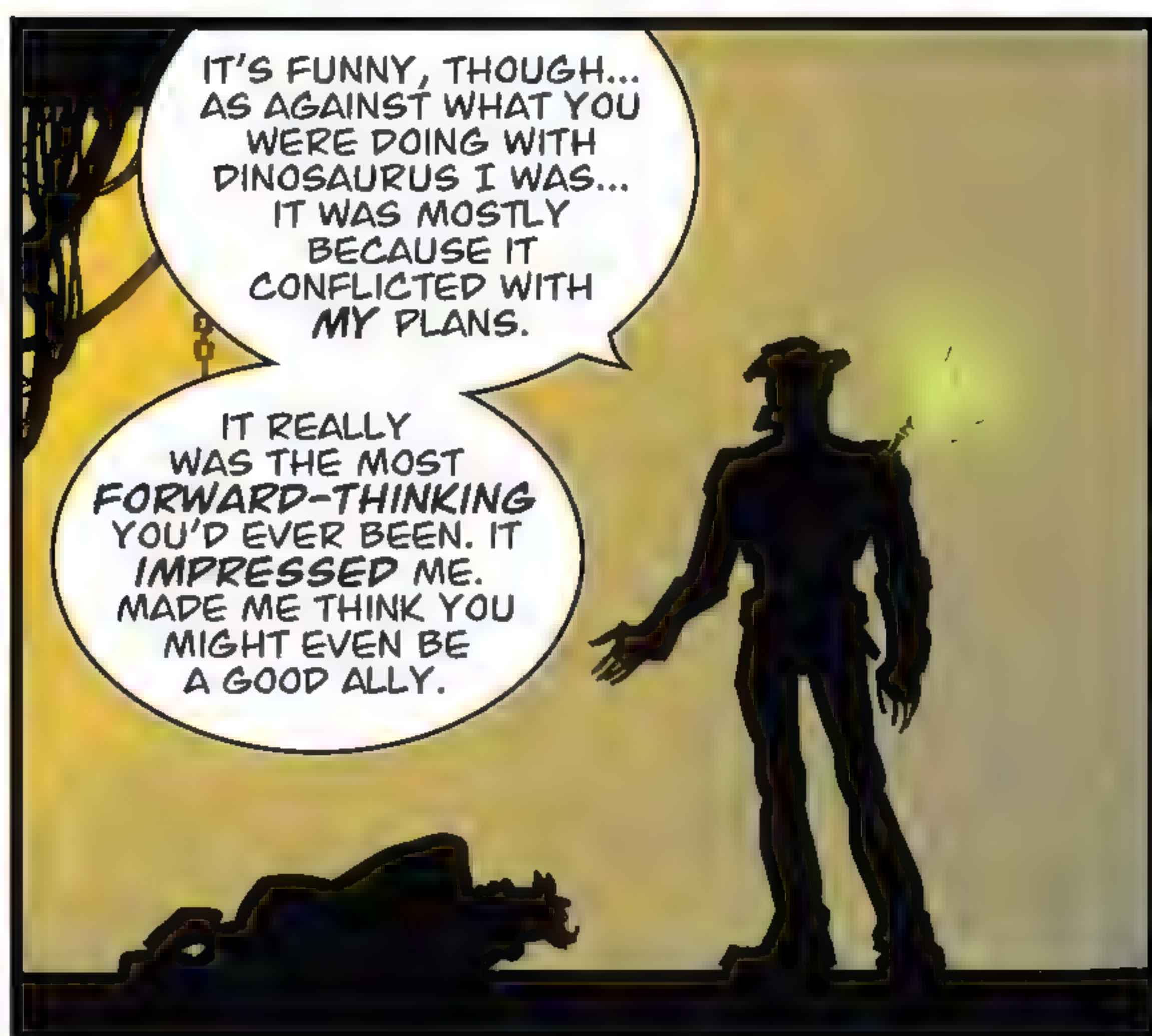
MONSTER GIRL AND I WERE THERE A LOT LONGER THAN WE LET ON... I WAS CONCERNED PEOPLE MIGHT GROW SUSPICIOUS IF THEY KNEW THE TRUTH.



SIMPLY PUT, I HAVE **BIG PLANS**, AND YOU SIMPLY DON'T FIT INTO THEM.

I WAS WORRIED I'D HAVE TO KILL YOU... BUT I DON'T WANT TO HAVE TO DO THAT. LEAVING YOU HERE SEEMS LIKE SUCH A BETTER OPTION.

BECAUSE YOU'LL NEVER ALLOW ME TO DO WHAT I HAVE TO DO.



IT'S FUNNY, THOUGH... AS AGAINST WHAT YOU WERE DOING WITH DINOSAURUS I WAS... IT WAS MOSTLY BECAUSE IT CONFLICTED WITH MY PLANS.

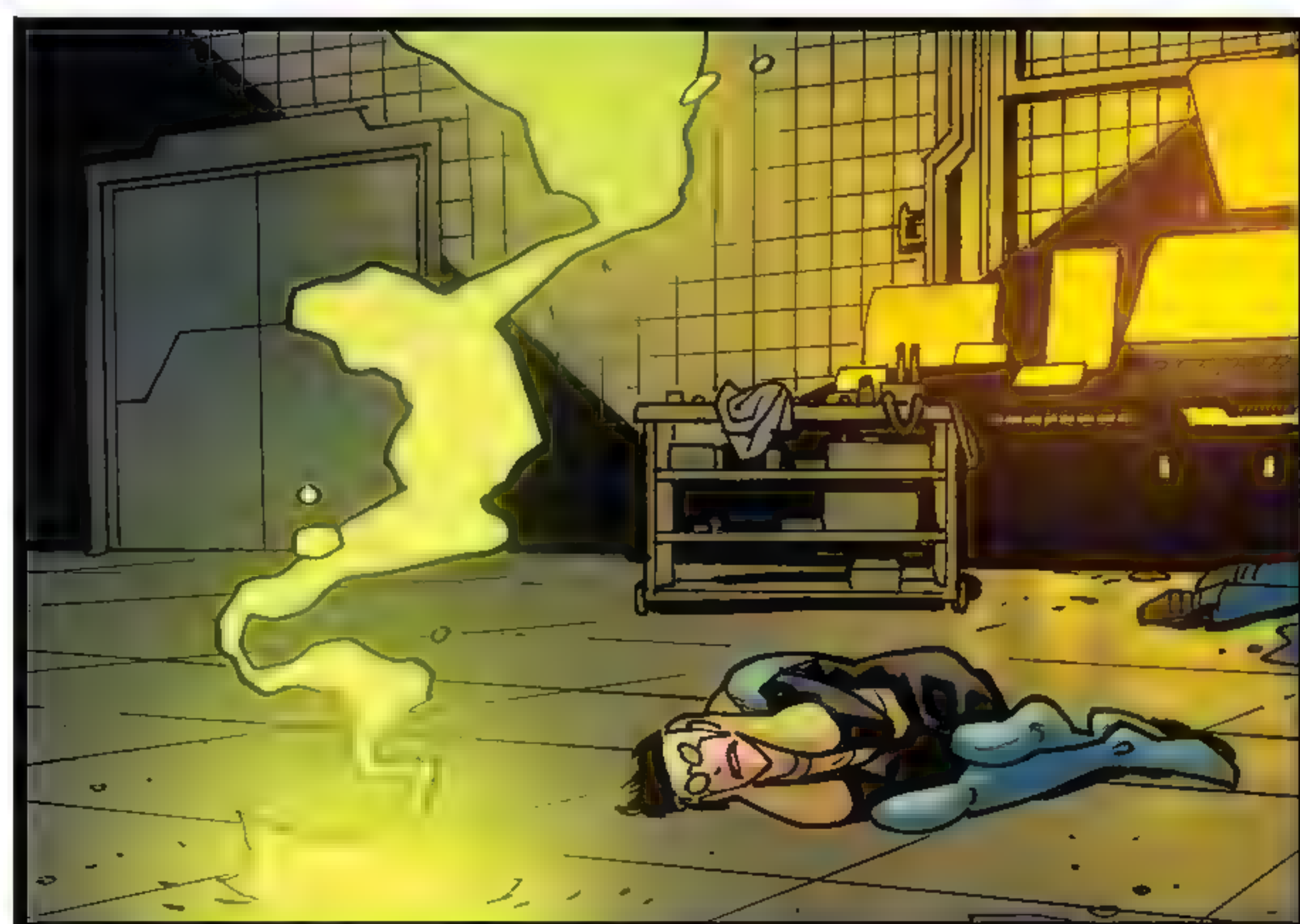
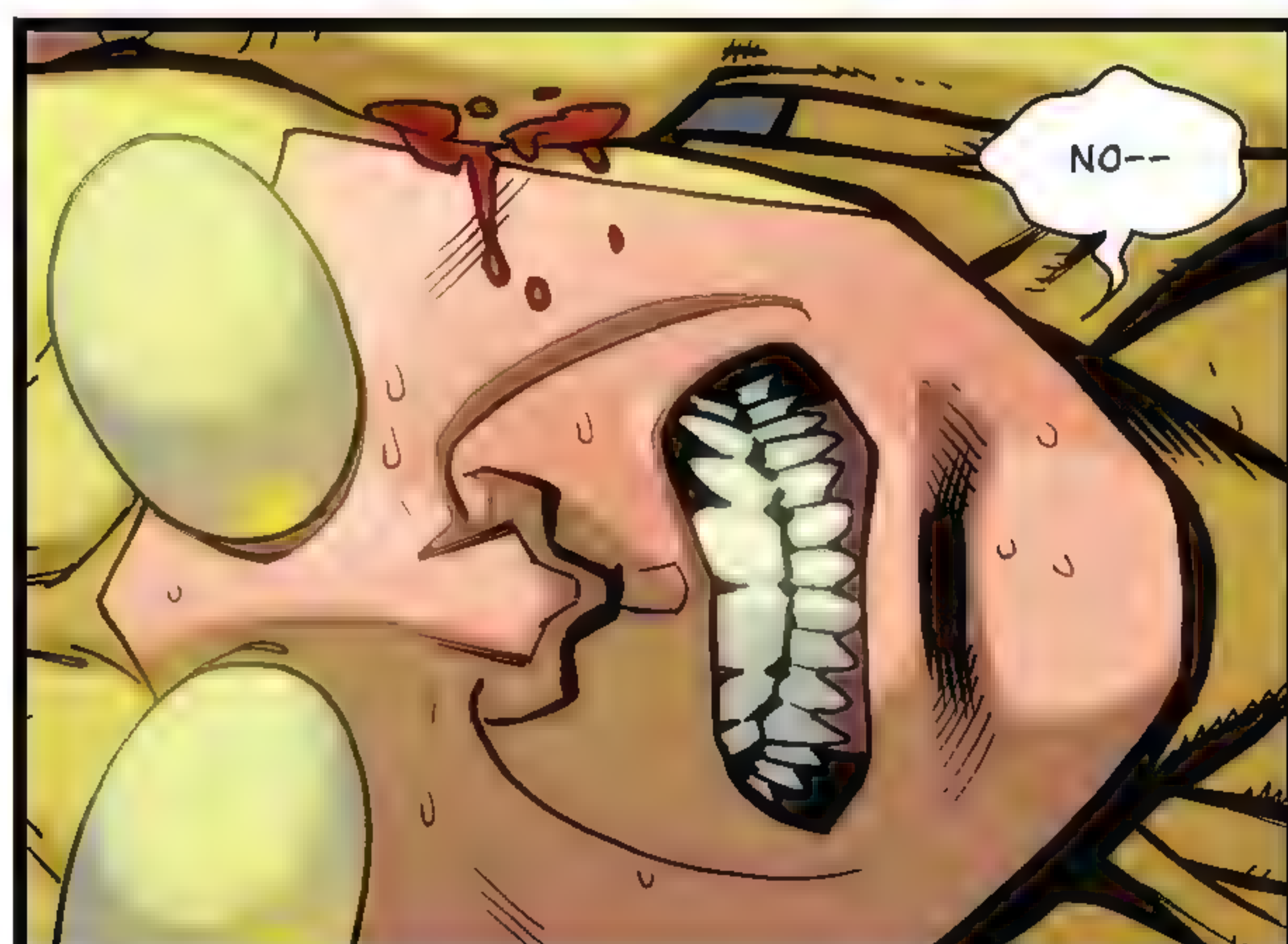
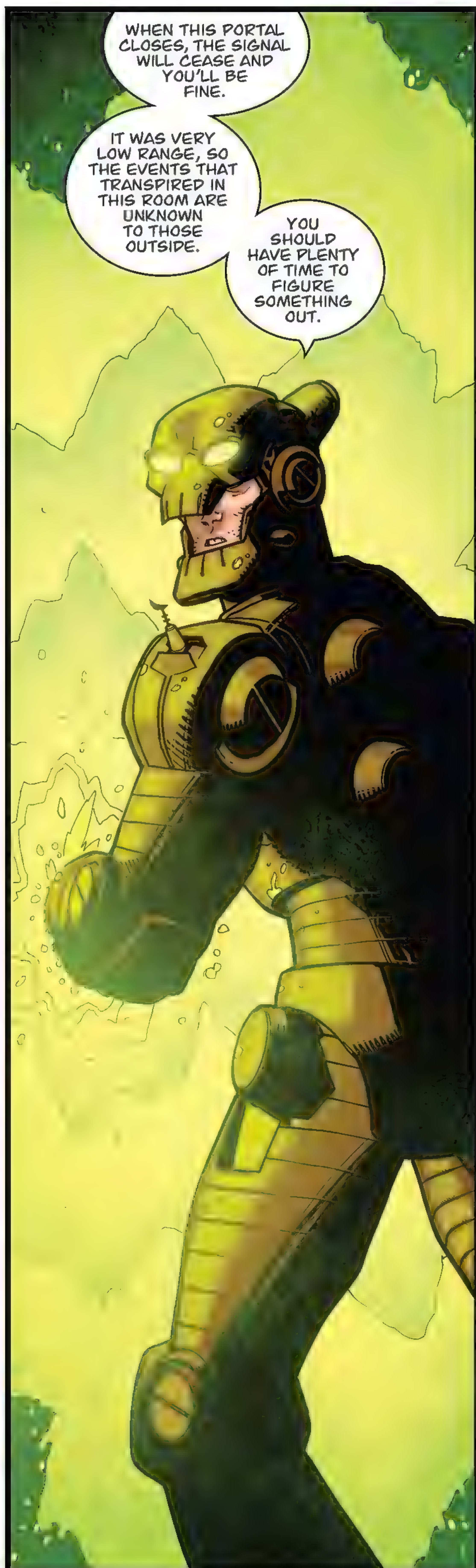
IT REALLY WAS THE MOST **FORWARD-THINKING** YOU'D EVER BEEN. IT **IMPRESSED** ME. MADE ME THINK YOU MIGHT EVEN BE A GOOD ALLY.



BUT SEEING YOUR POTENTIAL HERE, NO.

ONLY **ONE** OF US CAN RULE.



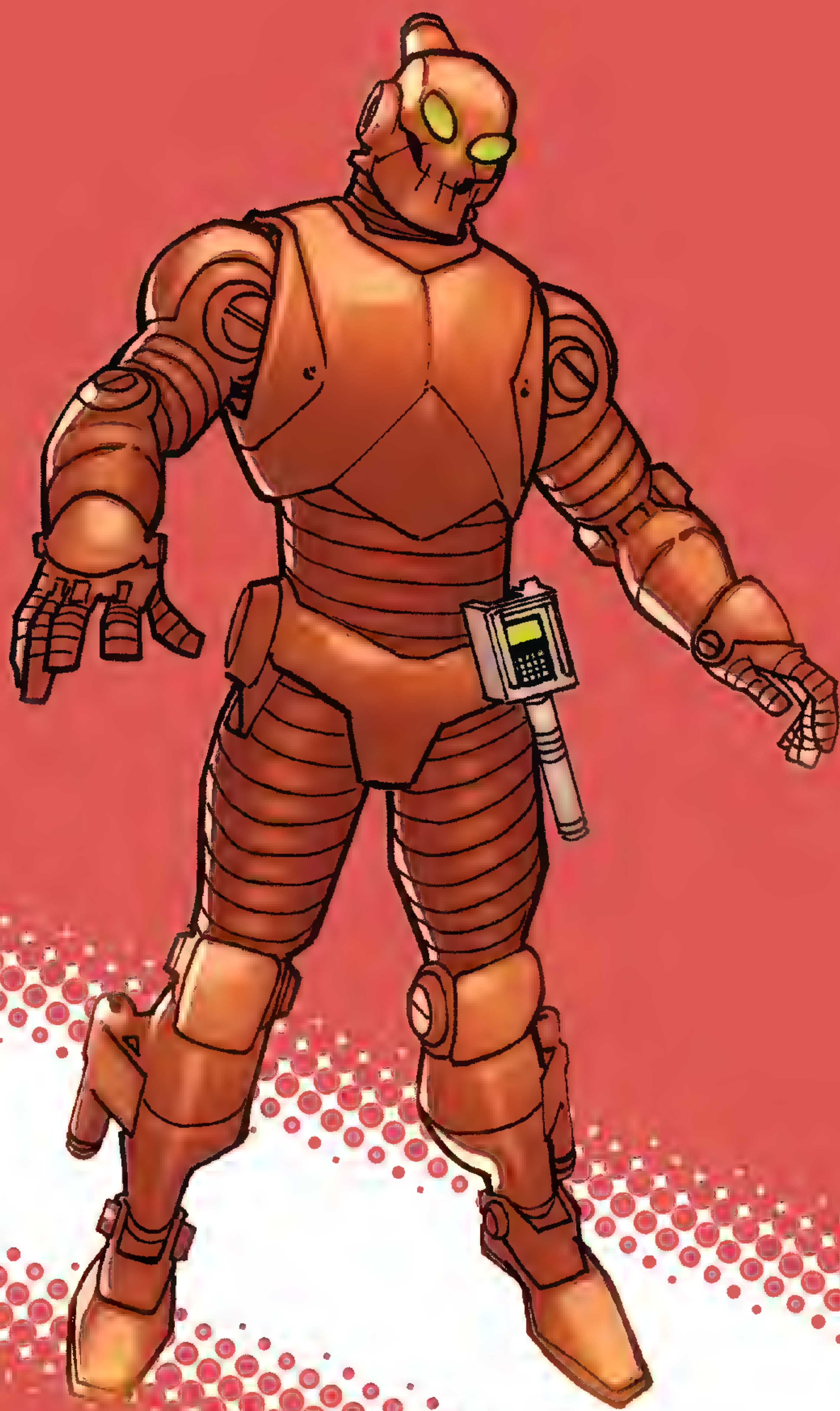






HOLY  
FUCK.



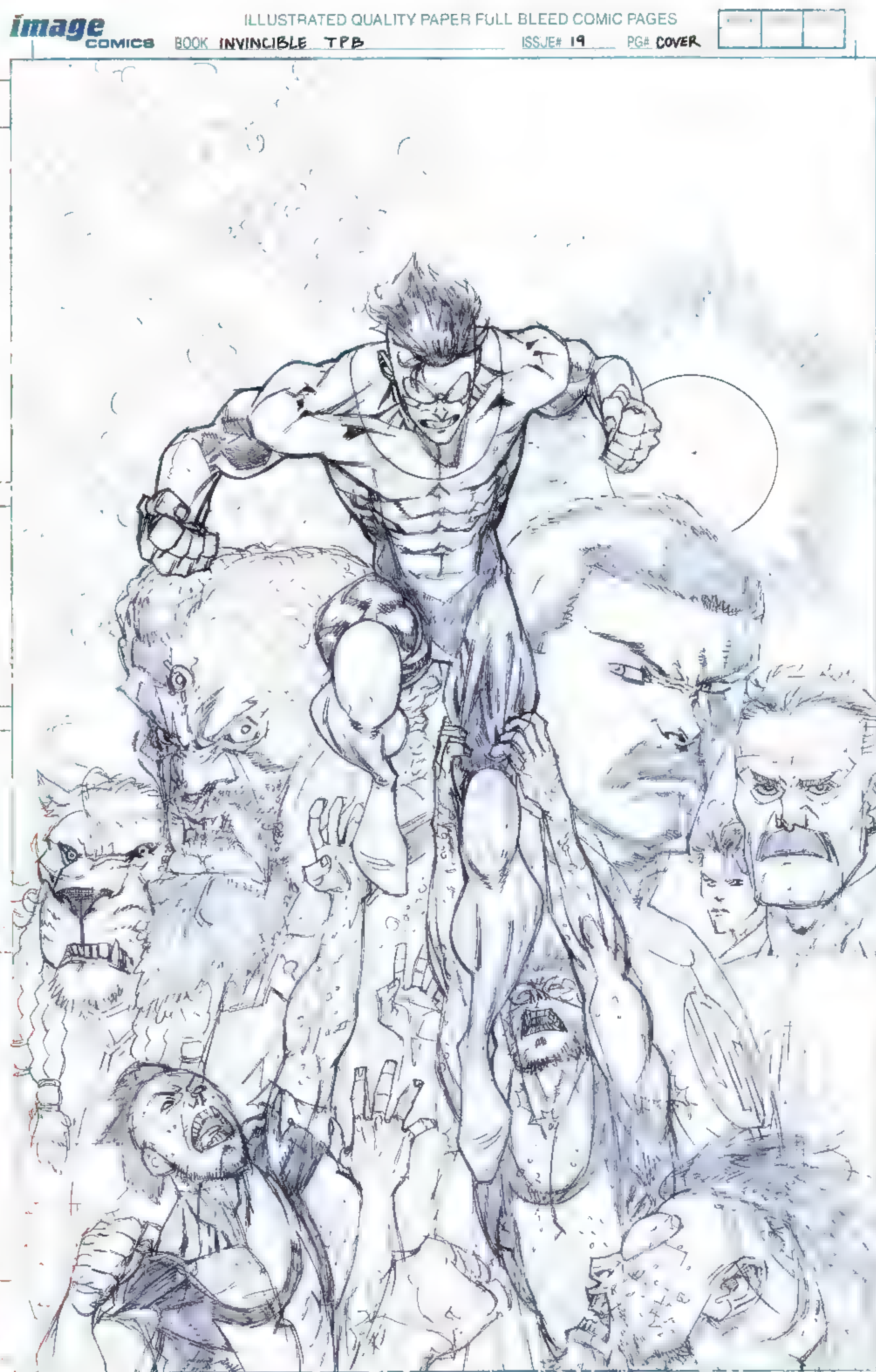




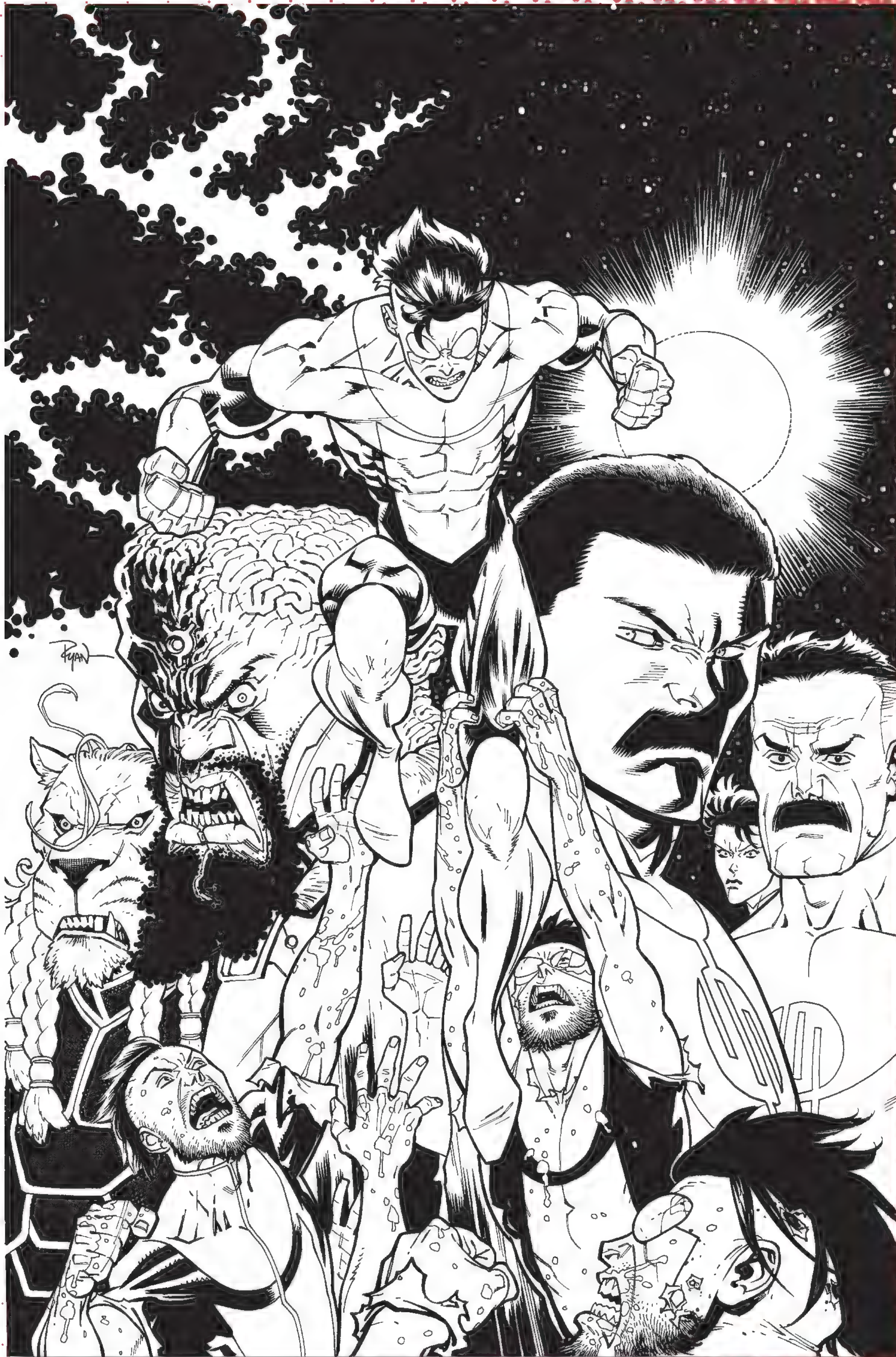
# SKETCHBOOK

**RYAN OTTLEY:** *Battle Beast, Angstrom Levy, alternate dimensional Invincibles, OH MY!!! No panel borders on this cover, which is different, always love drawing these things. I'll miss those other dimension Marks, poor dudes. I wonder how they tasted, though.*

**ROBERT KIRKMAN:** They taste like spaghetti. I love this cover, Ryan. You're the best. Seriously... this is probably my favorite TPB cover yet. Have you sold the original art for this yet? I'll email you.







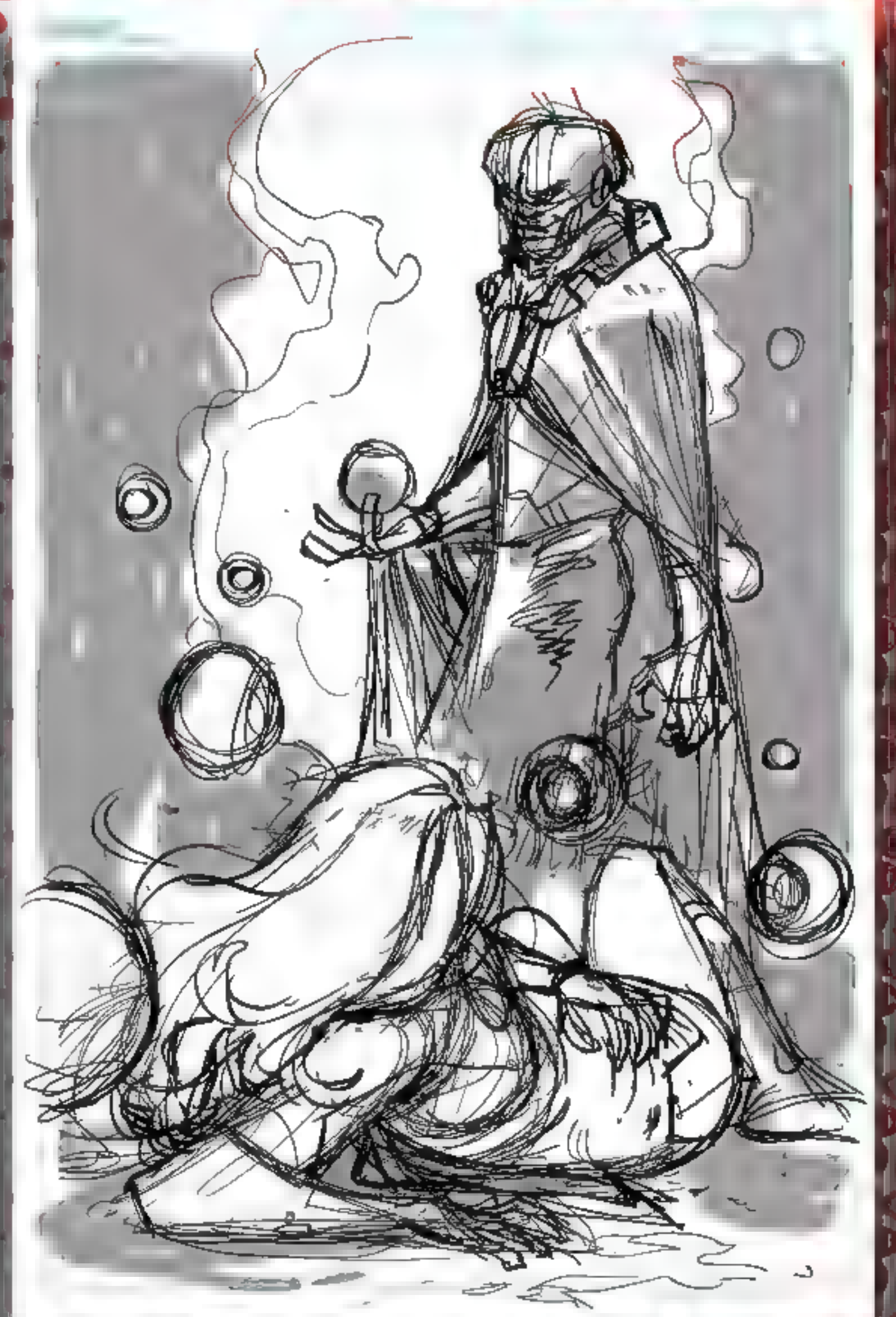




**RYAN:** This cover was nice to do because a brain close-up is always enjoyable to draw! Dudes like this definitely need their close-up so you all can see them up close and personal. I hate to see him go. I assume you read the book already before reading this. I mean who starts reading a collection with the sketchbook section first?! If you did, then I just spoiled it for you. Angstrom dies. The End.

**ROBERT:** But is he REALLY dead?! (He's really dead.) [Or is he?] {Seriously, he is.} <But how can we ever really know?>



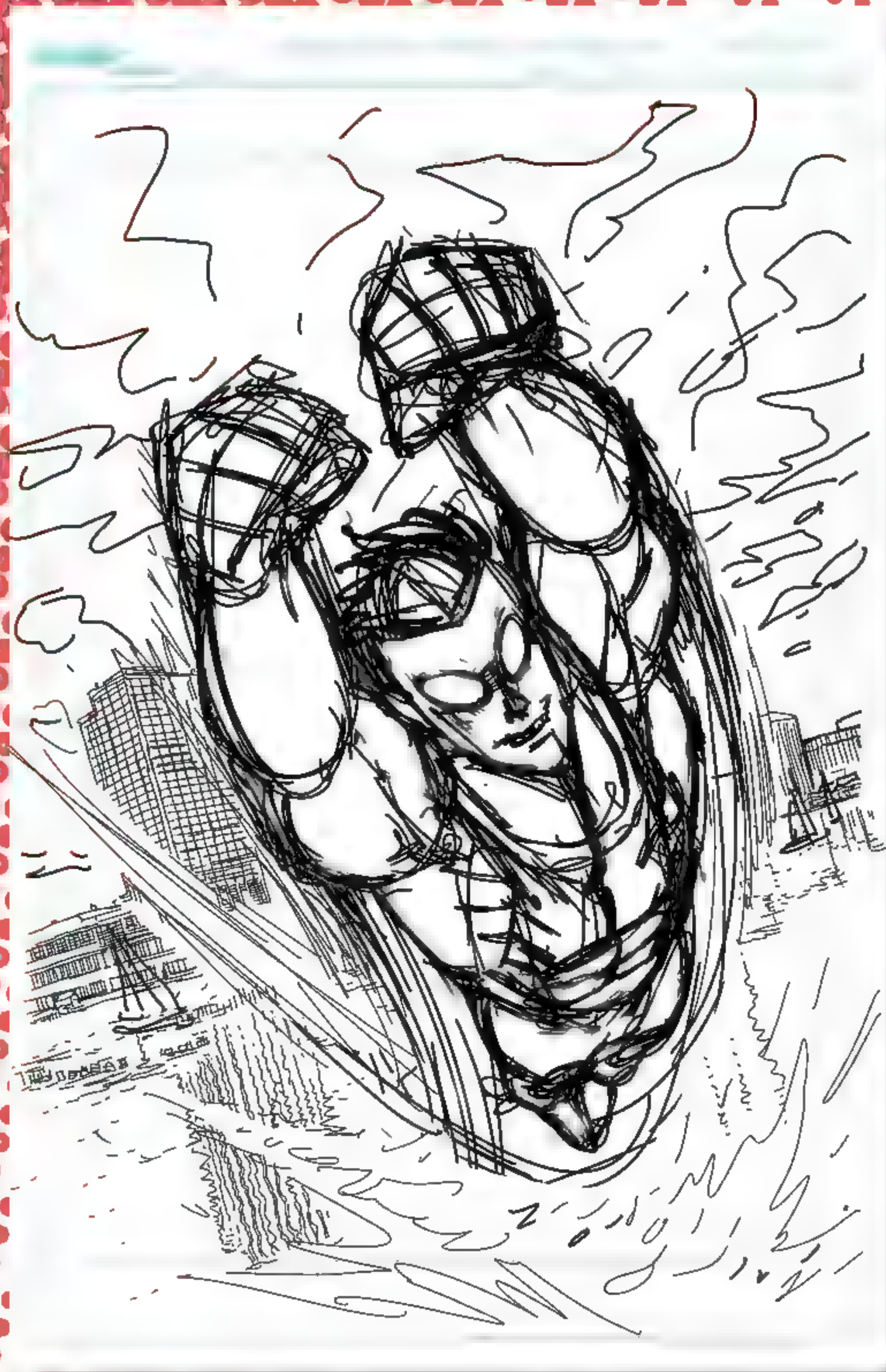


**RYAN:** So this one started off a little different. I thought it'd be cool if Angstrom could use his balls in a new way. That came out weird. What I mean is, I thought maybe he could use his metal ball minion thingies like projectors. So there is that one ball in front of Eve's face, and it's being projected for Angstrom to see. I thought it'd be cool. But Robert wasn't into it. He didn't want Angstrom's back turned, so that's fine. I just put Eve's crying reflection in that one ball. I didn't have a problem with the changes. Actually, I never complain when Robert wants me to change something. I'm always very obedient and agree with everything he says, right, Robert? RIGHT?!

**ROBERT:** You only listen to me because I'm ALWAYS RIGHT! Except when I admit later in the sketchbook section that an earlier sketch I didn't approve looks better... but that RARELY happens. Certainly not in this case. This final cover is WAY better than the creative, different crap you were trying to pull off.







**RYAN:** You can see how messy those digital layouts can get. It really helps me “find” my drawing. One thing I need to get better at is layouts/breakdowns. It usually takes me some time to get the pose and shapes I want. I’d like to get to a point where the lines are confident right off the bat. Someday.

**ROBERT:** Just give it another 100 issues or so.

**image**  
COMICS BCO

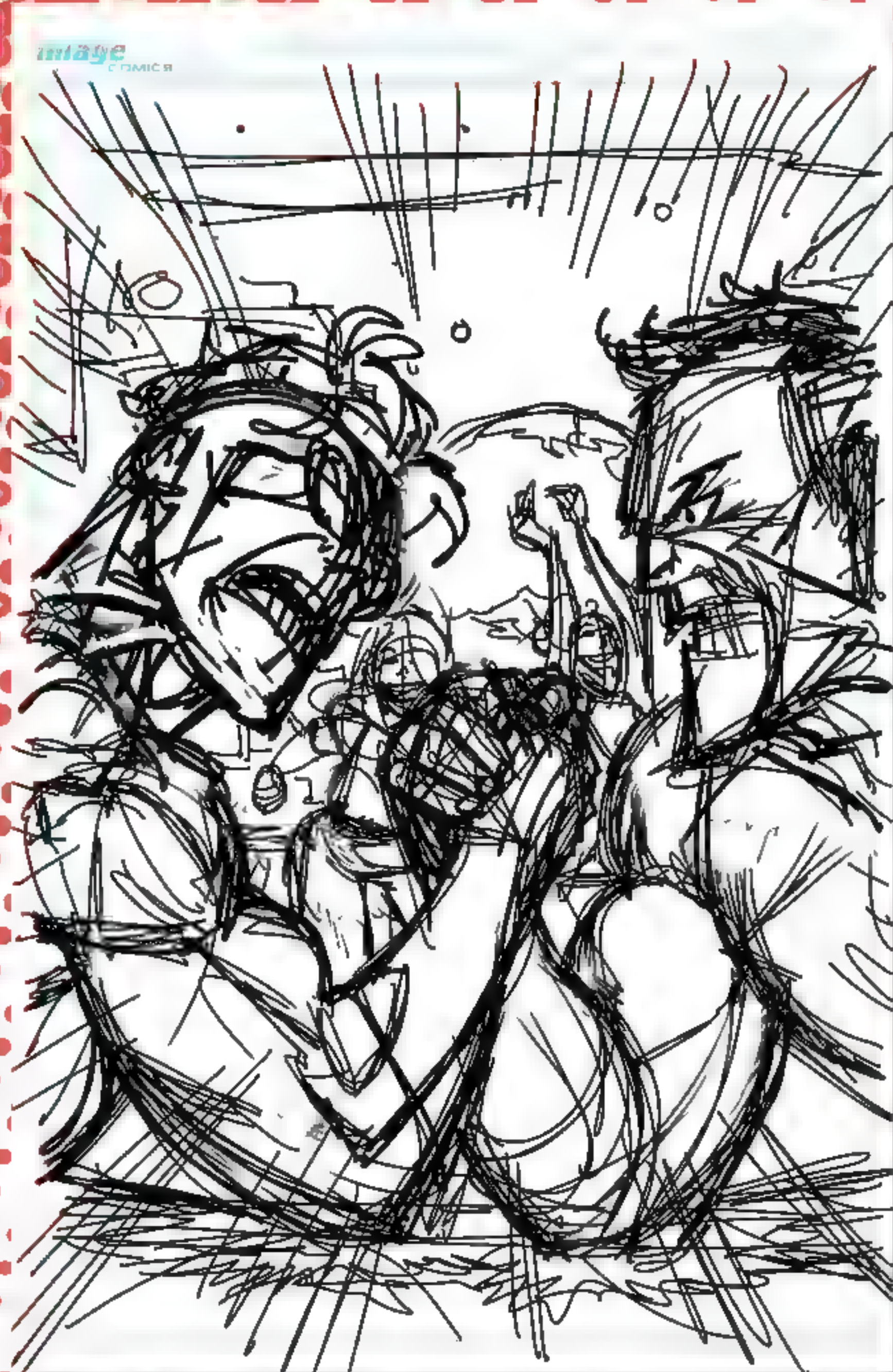






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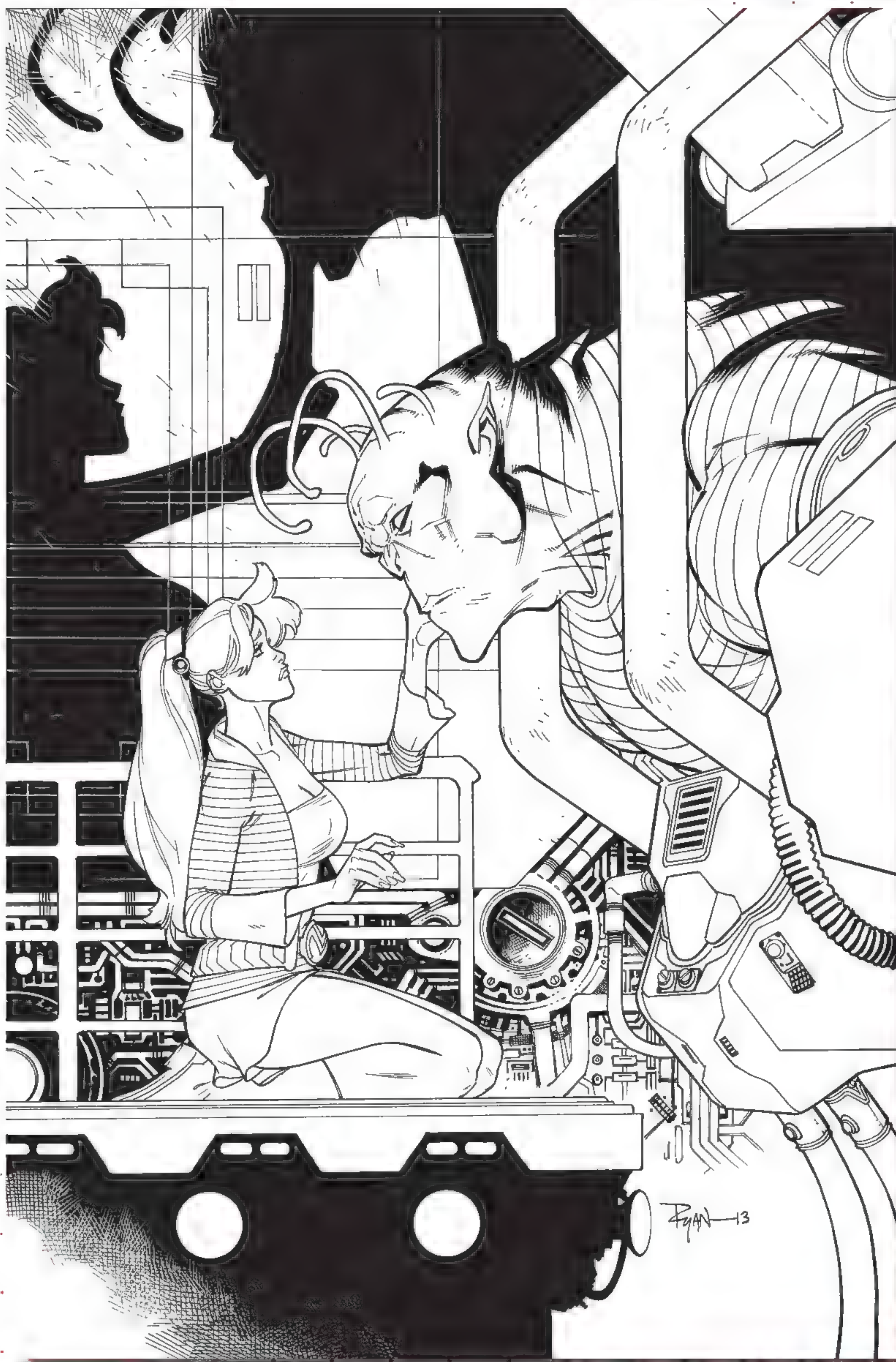
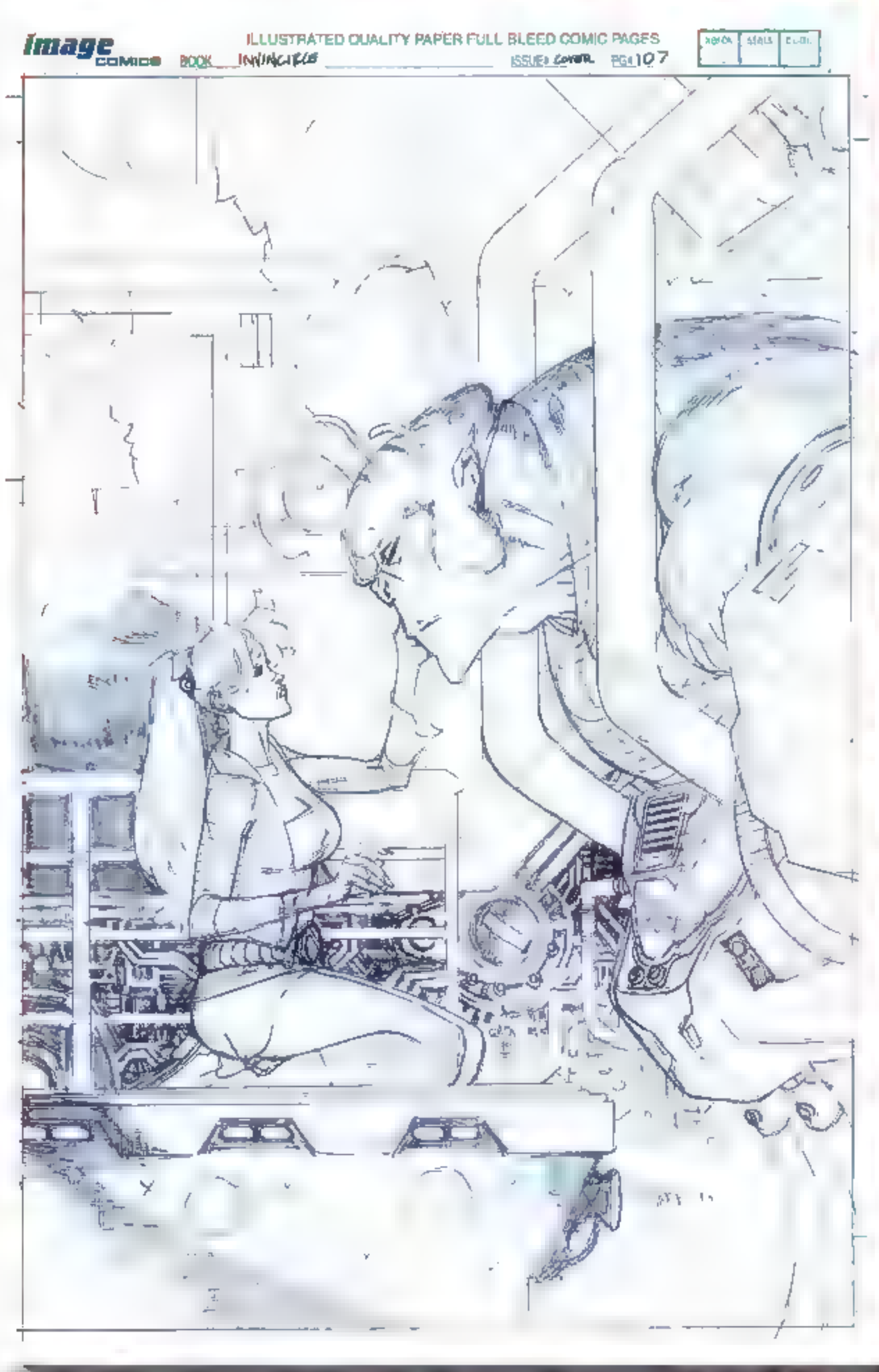
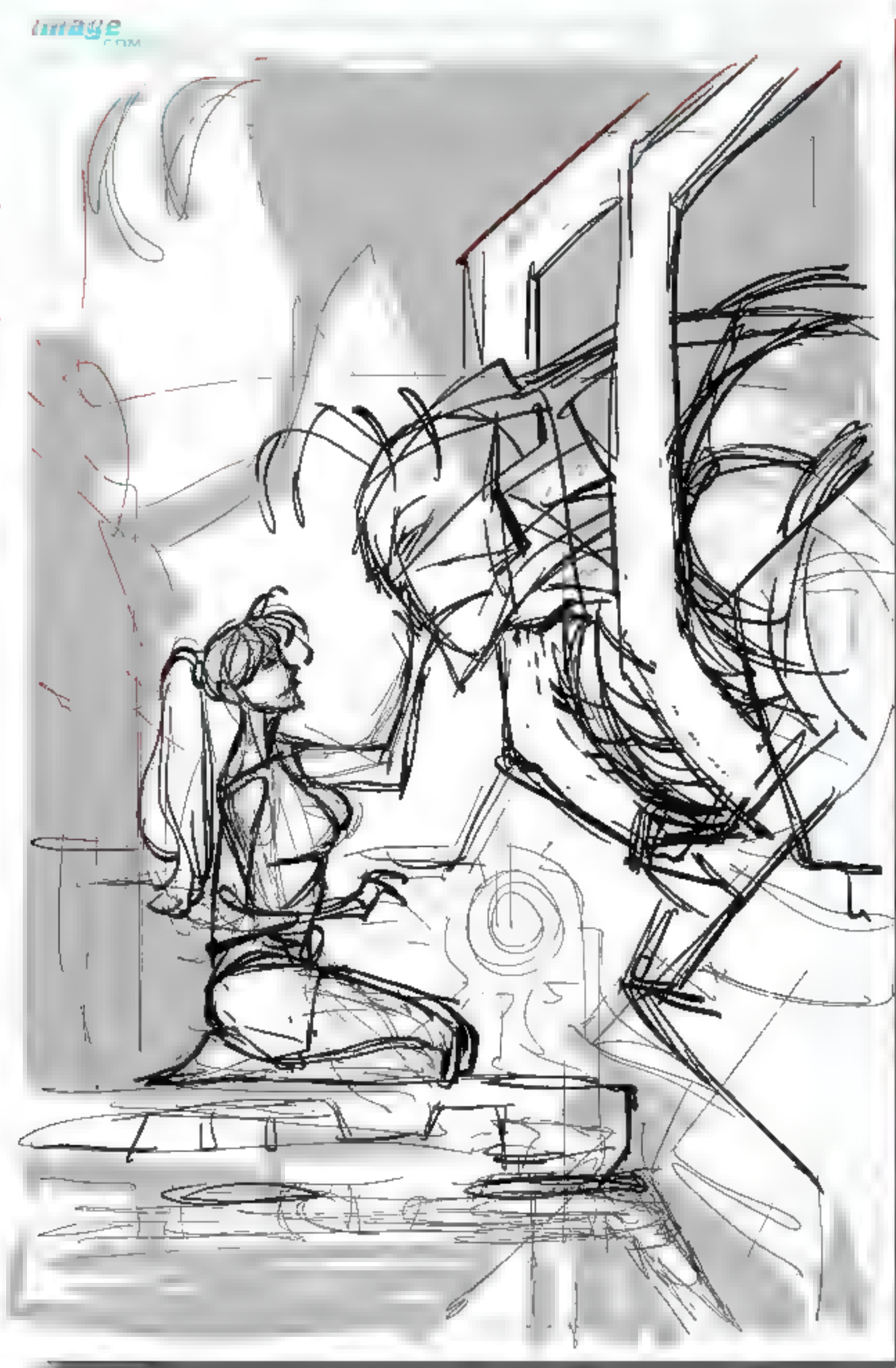


**RYAN:** Probably should have called this TPB *Over the Top!* Arm wrestling scene was greatness. We need a rematch though. That spying Annissa with her spying eyes and her boobs ruined Mark's win. We all know who the real winner is.

**ROBERT:** Ryan, these TPBs are not named after Stallone movies... YET.







**RYAN:** *Very quiet cover, loved the idea. Father and son. Fun to play with shadows and tech detail things. Different size proportions are always nice to draw. Love the giants vs. the normal size people proportions.*

**ROBERT:** *Yeah, this cover is great... and a particularly good color job from John Rauch. We don't give that guy enough props. He's always knocking it out of the park... but we're not running the colors here are we? Screw Rauch, you're the best, Ryan!*





**RYAN:** This one took a couple tries, had a few elements to shuffle around, piece it all together like a jigsaw puzzle. Needs to fit together in just the right way to showcase all the elements the way I wanted them to. First one just didn't feel right, Angstrom looked lame. Robert did ask for Angstrom to be in the foreground, which made it a little tricky for me for some reason. So I thought an extreme close-up would be the most interesting/shocking instead of that medium shot in my first try. Then I think Robert asked me to move Robot and Invincible to the bottom for a better composition. He was correct!

**ROBERT:** I'm always right. Anyway, my favorite thing about this cover is that it says, "THIS STORY IS TOTALLY ABOUT ANGSTROM AND EVIL INVINCIBLE" since they're so big... but it's really a story about Invincible and Robot... and they're tucked away, hidden at the bottom, in the background.

**image**

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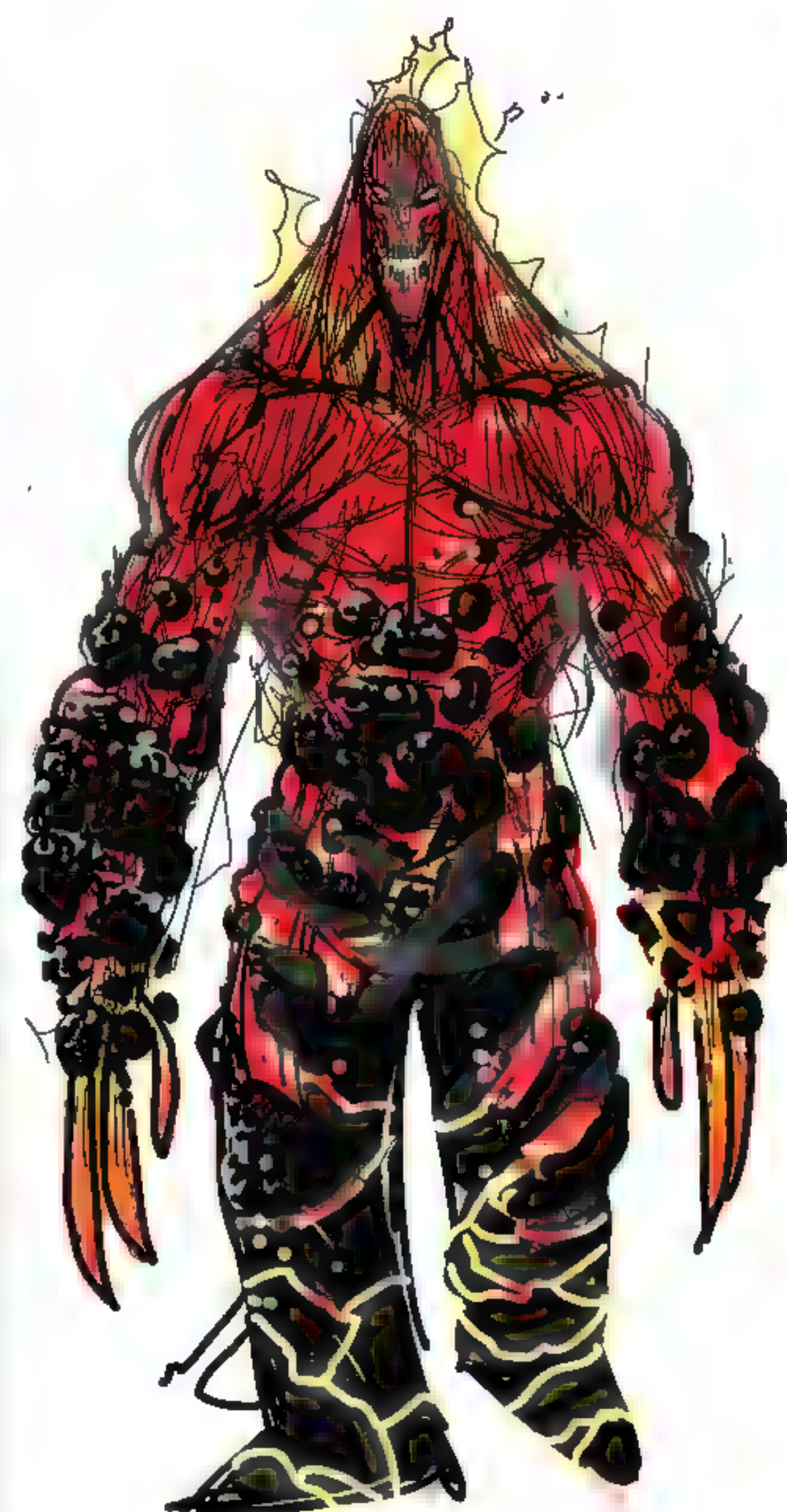
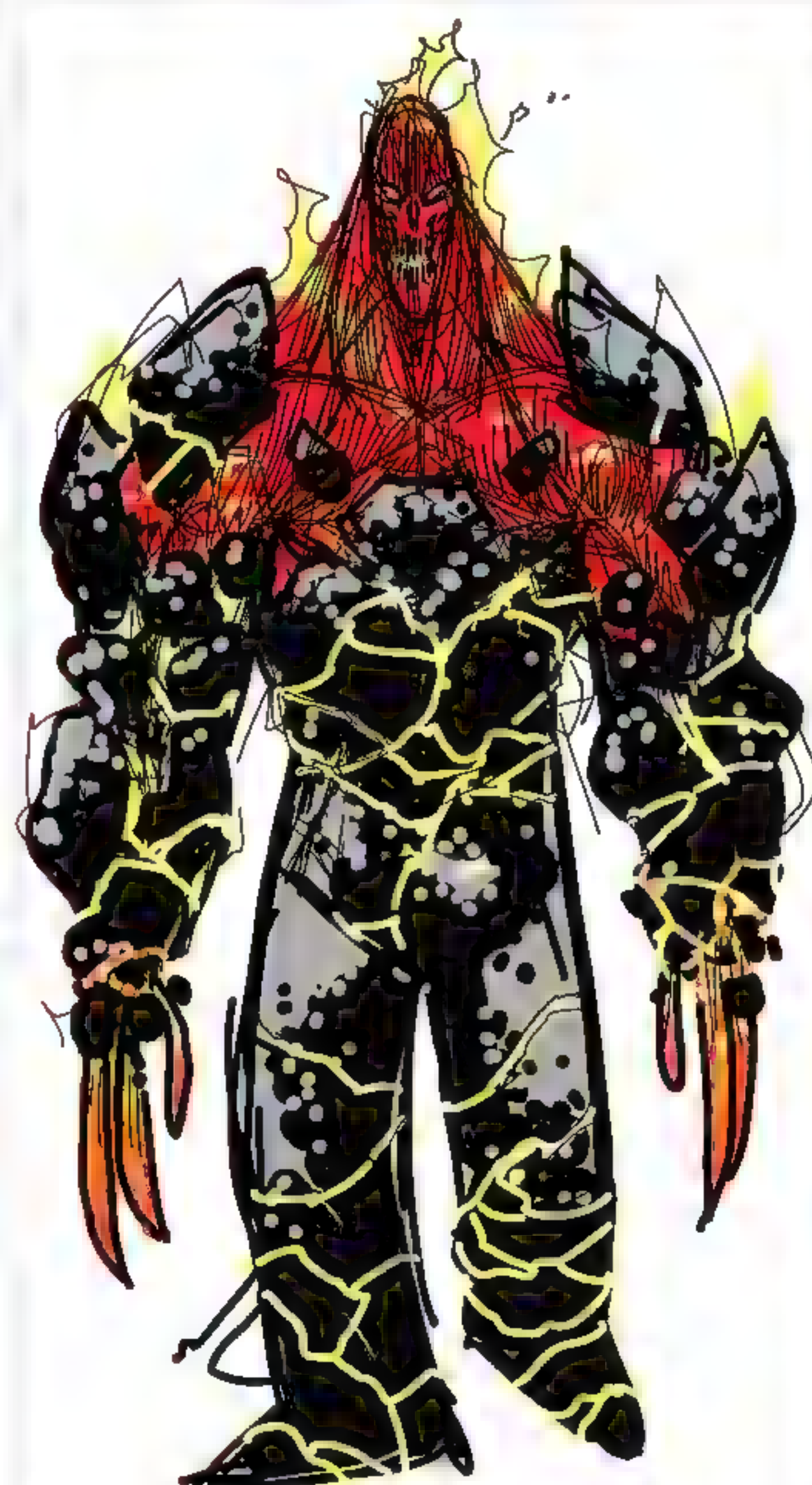
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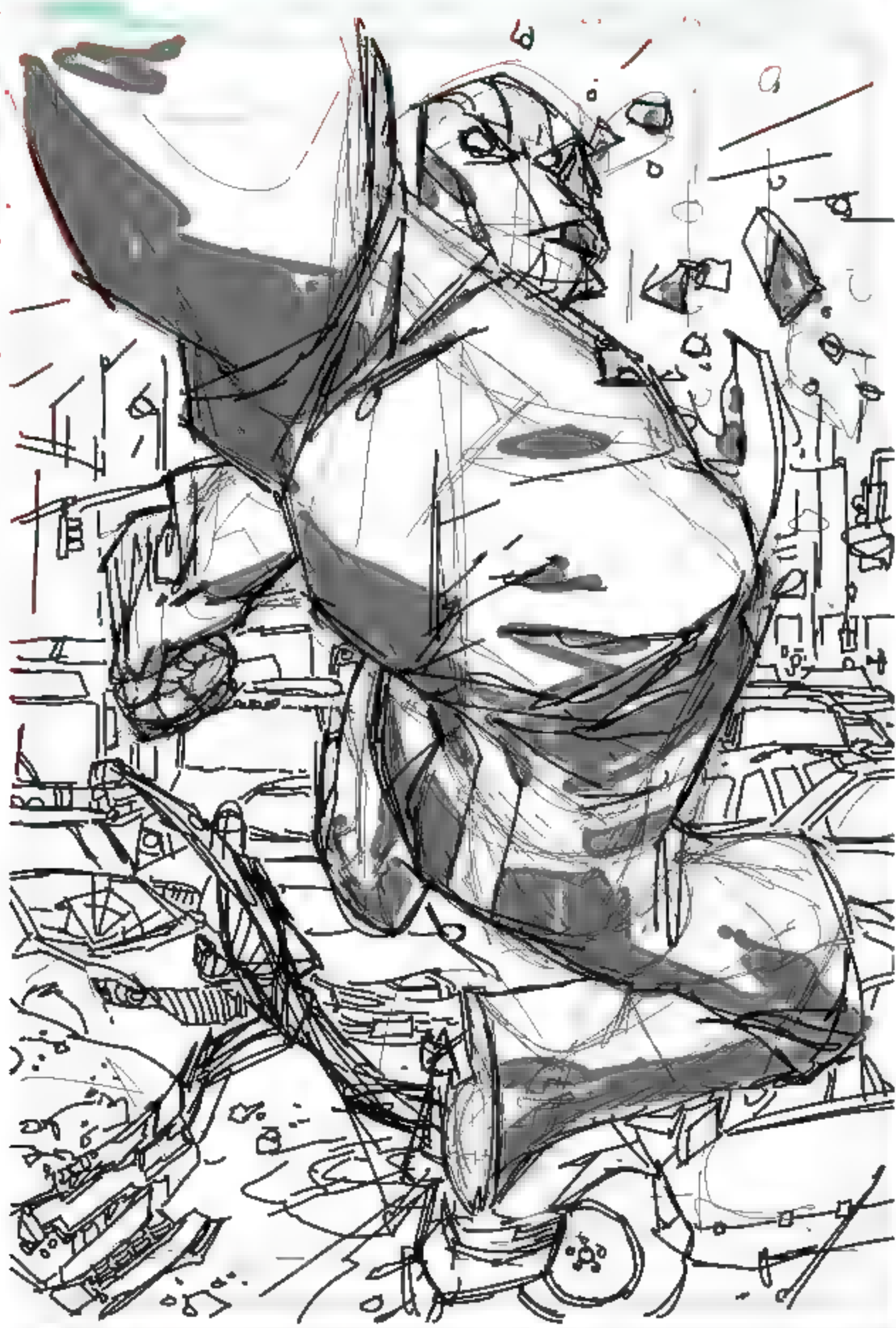
**RYAN:** Robert asked for some designs. He specifically said no slick costumes though; these characters are more organic and rough looking. Well, I completely forgot he said that and drew costumes for my first take. HA! I listen SO good. I was happy with them, too. I liked the idea of the little steam holes that puff out gas to cool them off. And it smells like sulfur. That's neat right? RIGHT?! FRRAAAAPP.

So Robert said, think more like they are those lava creatures, but they are growing out of their rock form. So my second take they were a bit too covered up. Then the final was them with less rocks. I also passed on an idea to Robert that I came up with while drawing these. LAVA SLIDES! I said to Robert how cool it'd be if these guys had the power to shoot lava in front of them and it hardens and forms a path and they can go anywhere and they leave these rock paths all over the place! Just like those ice characters from other comics! Robert immediately made fun of me and said it was a lame idea. I was like BAH! I wanted to draw lava slides. And then the script came, and BAM, there was lava slides in the script! HAHA! I was like a kid at Christmas who opened up all his presents and sure he got good stuff, but not everything he wanted, and then BAM, here comes that Red Ryder BB Gun. Thanks, Robert, you sly fox you.

**ROBERT:** This story is almost entirely false. I loved the lava slides from the moment you mentioned them to me. LAVA SLIDES!







**RYAN:** This is just a page I had a lot of fun with. This is Gridlock, and a lot of fans thought he was a new character, but he's been around forever. Wasn't he mentioned in one of the first issues? Then I drew him in #11, and some other issue. He's the reason why Nolan met Debbie, which I think is a cool little tidbit of info.

**ROBERT:** Yeah, Gridlock is kind of an inside joke with myself. I think Nolan mentions he was late because he was "fighting gridlock," which I always thought was funny because it just sounds like he was in traffic, but he was totally fighting a dude. And then I had him show up in #11 as a road-looking dude, but was never named. I think Ryan came up with the idea of him being a guy who gets pissed and turns into that monster when he's stuck in traffic. I'm running with that. **GRIDLOCK!**











**RYAN:** Due to lack of time, a lot of times I have to just design new characters and aliens right on the page. Here's that fun alien race in pencils. And you'll see the first take I did of that female alien that Battle Beast took a liking too. Robert wasn't into this design, he said he pictured more of a warrior badass lady. Although, in my defense, it didn't say that in the script anywhere. I thought she was just supposed to be an attractive alien lady that wanted to go hang with the Beast! But he got Cory to do the design for her, which definitely is a completely badass design.

**ROBERT:** I think I told you about that badass thing on the phone. The script does specifically say, "Don't make her look goofy" though... you jerk. Anyway--Cory Walker to the rescue!

INVINCIBLE

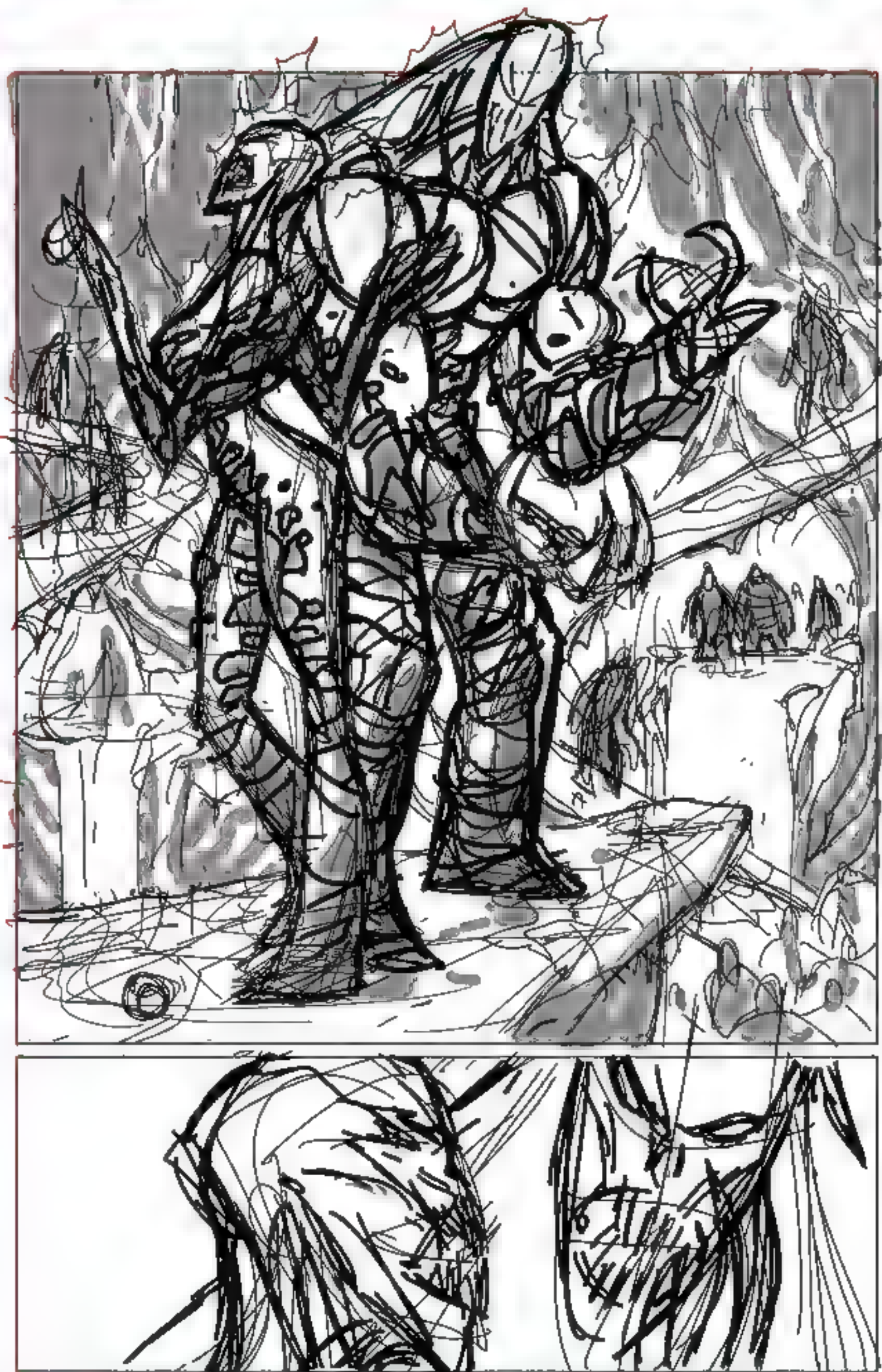
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5

RYAN-13







**RYAN:** My pencils and inks to this first appearance of good ol' Volcannika and Doc Siesmic in his new tougher bod. This new couple is gonna be awesome. Cannot wait to draw them again! The lines on their body were supposed to be kind of like visible muscle fibers. But it ended up looking like I was trying to ape Dale Keown art! He is a huge influence of mine, always loved his work, but not exactly what I was going for.

**ROBERT:** I wish your art looked more like Dale Keown art... joking! Joking! I love you, Ryan Ottley!







**RYAN:** Here's one commission I did this year. I did more at conventions, I just didn't get a scan of them. Whoops! Thanks for reading! Later.

**ROBERT:** Eve is too thin. You need to redraw this.

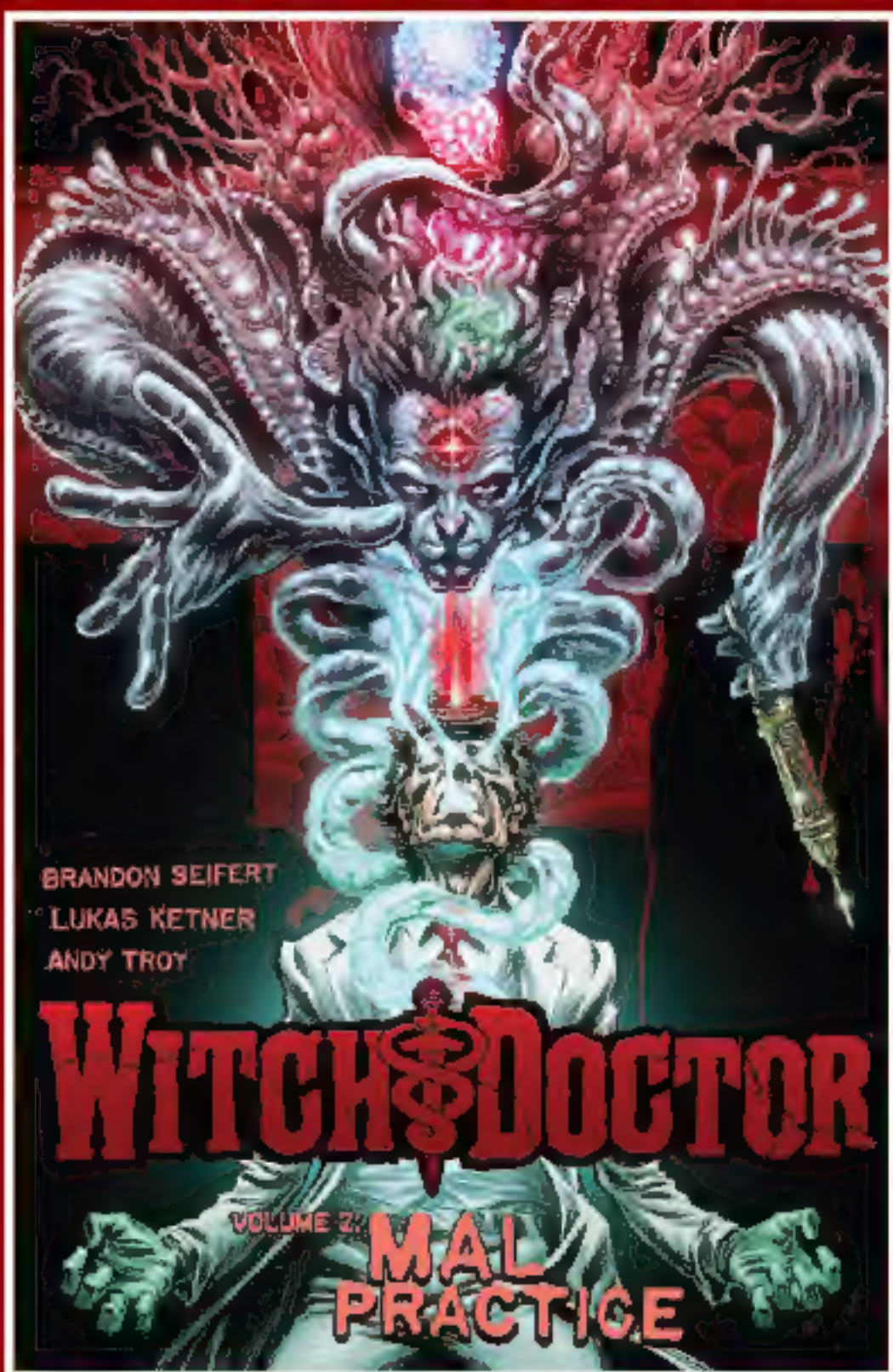


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